

# THE TIMES

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TUESDAY JUNE 3 1997

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**ART AND ANTIQUES**  
ART & ANTIQUES FAIRS

Minister demands act of contrition

## Lottery chiefs ordered to give up bonus

BY CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CAMELOT directors were told yesterday that they must surrender pay rises and bonuses worth nearly £3 million to charity.

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, rejected the Lottery company chairman's offer to match the pay rises with a donation to charity from Camelot profits. He described the gesture as a "sideshow" and insisted that the directors must agree by Friday to make the personal sacrifice.

After a hostile meeting with Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, the chief executive Tim Holley and the communications director David Rigg, Mr Smith repeated his demands in a letter warning the directors that they had offered too little to undo the damage they had done to public confidence in the lottery.

The directors, whose pay increased by up to 90 per cent last year, had shown nowhere near enough contrition and the "small concession" would not appease public anger over their personal remuneration.

Mr Smith emerged from the hour-long meeting at the Heritage Department declaring that he wanted all or part of current bonuses — totalling £2.3 million — as well as bonuses worth £520,000 due in October, to be paid to charity. He also demanded that interest on spare prize money, amounting to £6 million, should go to good causes.

"Camelot came armed with the small concession that they should make a donation from their profits equivalent to the bonuses paid to directors," Mr Smith said. "This does not address the central issue of overpayments to directors and I do not believe that it addresses the understandable public



"I just hope no-one hears about our Halifax windfall"

— money set aside for prizes which goes unclaimed when winning Instant scratchcards are not sold.

Sir George added: "The Secretary of State made it very clear to me his disapproval of the level of directors' bonuses that had been recently paid. I explained that, as chairman, it was not possible to overturn contracts freely entered into by shareholders and directors which had been in place right at the start of the National Lottery and which have been independently valued at market rates. It is critical for the long-term success of the lottery that we are able to retain high calibre staff at all levels in the business."

In his subsequent letter, Mr Smith repeated his three proposals and the fact that he was disappointed Sir George had only offered to match the directors' bonuses with a donation to charity out of company profits, rather than give up the bonuses themselves.

He said: "Although I welcome your commitment to give a sum equivalent to directors' bonuses to your charitable foundation, I do not believe that it addresses the underlying problem. I expect a response to my proposals by the end of the week."

The Virgin Group chairman, Richard Branson, who mounted a bid to run the lottery on a non-profit basis, supported Mr Smith's stance. He said that the Camelot directors had acted unwisely, but had not been underhand. However, he thought that public support for the lottery would suffer if changes were not made.

Oxfam said that even with giving all directors' bonuses to charity, the lottery remained an inefficient way of donating cash because only 5p in every £1 spent went to good causes.

Photograph, page 2



Tony Blair chose the rundown Aylesbury estate in south London rather than the Commons to outline his plans to help the poor to work

## Blair promises work, not welfare

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THERE will be no option of a life on benefit under Labour, Tony Blair said yesterday as he urged Britons to join the Government in a crusade to help the country's poorest people.

On a visit to a rundown housing estate in south London, the Prime Minister promised that there would be no "forgotten people" in the Britain he wanted to build.

He outlined plans to help jobless single parents through inviting them to jobcentres for advice on childcare, training and skills development, and he confirmed that the mid-week lottery would fund after-school homework clubs so that families could juggle work and home life more easily.

He also made plain that the

Budget next month would be a "welfare-to-work Budget" designed to give hope to the young and strength back to the country. It would be a "something for something" deal providing jobs or training for 250,000 young people.

But he combined his promise to do more for the poor with a warning of tough sanctions against those who wilfully failed to play their part in the "new bargain".

The proposed windfall tax would be used to get young people off benefit and into work through subsidies for employers, opportunities on Labour's environmental task force, work with voluntary organisations, and full-time education or training for people without adequate

skills. People who declined to take up one of the four options after 13 weeks would, however, face losing up to 40 per cent of their benefits. "There will be and should be no fifth option of an inactive life on benefit."

Mr Blair deliberately chose the background of the Aylesbury estate in Southwark to deliver his first keynote speech outside Parliament since the election. He said he wanted everyone to take part in the task of creating one nation. The voluntary sector should provide "mentors and helpers" as well as jobs for young people. He hoped schools would be open throughout the evening to make it easier for lone parents to go out to work, and older people to do their bit to help out in

schools. He wanted computer professionals to emulate their American counterparts by giving up their time to wire up schools and community centres to the latest technology. "We need to act in a new way because fatalism and not just poverty is the problem we face, the dead weight of low expectations, the crushing belief that things cannot get better. I want to give people back the will to win again. This will to win is what drives a country, the belief that expectations can be fulfilled and ambitions realised."

Lone parents would not be compelled to work. "What we are talking about is empowerment."

Continued on page 2, col 1

### IN BRIEF

#### Oklahoma bomb verdict

The jury in the Oklahoma bombing trial last night found Timothy McVeigh guilty of all 11 charges in connection with the blast on April 19, 1995, in which 168 people died.

McVeigh, who had begun his deliberations last Friday, said McVeigh was guilty of the murder of eight law enforcement officers, conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, use of the weapon and the destruction of government property.

#### Minimum wage 'job losses'

George Bain, the new head of the Low Pay Commission, risked embarrassing the Government by conceding that the national minimum wage could lead to job losses. Professor Bain, appointed to chair the body that will recommend the level for a statutory minimum wage, also suggested that the loss of some low-paid jobs would be a good thing. Page 10

#### Australians lose

The Australians lost to Derbyshire by one wicket in their final match before the Test series against England starts on Thursday. Despite seven wickets by Shane Warne, Derbyshire reached their target of 371 with three balls to spare. Page 48

### Brown changes Budget day

Gordon Brown will deliver his first Budget on a Wednesday. The Chancellor confirmed that the Budget, which will include a windfall tax on privatised utilities and a reduction of VAT on fuel to 5 per cent, will be on July 2 because the Prime Minister will be in Hong Kong the day before.

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http://www.the-times.co.uk

## Sailing off into the windfall sunset

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

HARDLY were their shares afloat than they were planning to sail off into the sunset.

One in eight Britons received a four figure windfall from the Halifax yesterday and thousands went straight out and blew it at the travel agents. The luxury cruise, was the most popular choice.

With the conversion of the Halifax from a building society into a bank the average windfall of between £2200-£2500 to 7.6 million members was expected to spark a High Street spending boom this week and immediately a race began to woo the spenders. The 1.9 million Halifax customers who sold their free shares immediately will pick

up a minimum of £1,465 this Friday and shops are bracing themselves for a spree.

Thomson Holidays has launched its summer 1998 brochures three months early in anticipation of many people spending their windfalls on trips. Thomas Cook reported a 15-20 per cent increase in inquiries about their more expensive holidays in the run-up to the flotation.

Jason Hindle, manager of the Thomas Cook shop in Halifax said he had been almost overwhelmed as soon as he opened the door. "A couple came in at 9 o'clock and said they had seen the share price and wanted to get away. They went to Canada, it was



Halifax chairman Jon Foulds at the launch

something they had always wanted to do. There's a tremendous feeling in the town. I could do with more staff."

Peter Povey, marketing di-

rector of Lunn Poly, said: "We've had a lot of interest from people expecting windfall money who are thinking of the holiday of a lifetime or wanting to upgrade this year's fortnight in the sun."

Dixons, the electrical goods chain, was taking advertisements in today's newspapers for televisions and computers, in the price range of the average windfall.

Halifax members are likely to be the targets of marketing campaigns. The Halifax does not make its mailing list available but the addresses of the 20 per cent of members who opted to keep shares are in the public domain.

Key questions, page 2  
Share dealings, page 25

## French Communists await Jospin's call

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the leader of France's triumphant Socialist Party, was asked to form a Government yesterday by his ideological rival, President Jacques Chirac, a day after the Left swept to power.

Mr Jospin will be installed as Prime Minister today, following the resignation of Alain Juppé, whose centre-right coalition fell to internal bickering.

The final results gave the combined left-wing parties 319 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly but the Socialists and their allies fell short of winning an outright majority. The Communist Party,

which opposes the single European currency and now holds the balance of power with 38 seats, said that it was prepared to join the new Government but was awaiting firm policy commitments from M Jospin.

An opinion poll showed that more than 60 per cent of voters do not believe the impending "cohabitation" between a left-wing Government and a conservative President will last the remaining five years of M Chirac's term.

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# Teacher must be firm with the new playground bullies

"HEY, Miss! Tony's bullying us!" One after another, Tory MPs leapt up at Points of Order yesterday to tug Betty Boothroyd's sleeve and beg Teacher to sort out the playground thugs.

Sir Peter Emery (C. Devon East) was on his feet with a complicated complaint about procedure. He thought Labour's business managers were high-handed. Miss B looked as sunny as the recess she has just enjoyed. Brown as a nut and tactful as ever, she flattered this senior MP — but declined to help.

Another Tory complained that, though social security was the subject of the day's Questions, Mr Blair had taken himself off to a housing estate rather than the House, to make his speech. Could MPs have tickets? Betty laughed prettily, but avoided answering. She avoided answering Bernard Jenkin (C. Colchester N) who accused Mr Blair of discourtesy.

Bill Cash (C. Stone) did no better. He was angry that the PM had returned from a European Union meeting in Nordwijk without a state-

ment. Madam Speaker couldn't help. She couldn't help Julian Brazier (C. Canterbury) who wanted a statement on the recently announced Defence Review. She couldn't help the Tory Education team, cross that a Bill had been published with little time for MPs to study it before debating it.

Tories, who think the Government is riding roughshod over the House, are sore. Dennis Skinner reminded them that, not months ago, it was they had been the arrogant ones. Gerald Kaufman



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH



(Lab. Manchester Gorton) advised the Opposition to "read my book, *How to be a Minister*. The last chapter is entitled 'How To Leave Office Gracefully'." "I haven't finished it," beamed a relaxed Miss Boothroyd.

Yet, amid all the runcatching which attends the birth of a new Government, one woman's future has

hardly been discussed. Miss Boothroyd has a grisly assignment. All at once she holds the ring as a headstrong Government faces a crippled Opposition.

For her this is a new job. A Speaker has responsibilities for the protection of endangered species like backbenchers and Tory Oppositions. The last Opposition needed

no help; and if there was an underdog it was the front bench, not its backstabbing backbenchers.

Formerly a Labour MP, she could hardly be dubbed a Tory poodle. John Major needed her goodwill and treated her with care. She faced no big challenge to her good faith or command. A poor man's head of state, she looked set for a life of greeting presidents and opening flower shows.

Now she is in new territory. Bitter Conservative Members will mutter whenever she

rules against them. If she stands up to the Labour front bench she is unlikely to be thanked by the gingerbread men and women behind.

Jack Weatherill was handed just such a chalice in 1983 when, a former Tory, he took the Chair with Labour devastated. He proved a sturdy defender of backbenchers but got little thanks from either side and (in private) quite a bruising from Tory hitmen. His relationship with his old bosses never recovered.

But yesterday all was sunshine. And reviews! Avoiding

every question, the new Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, promised a review. It was unclear whether these were different reviews, or one Big Review of Everything. Her quick-thinking, softly spoken, thinly smiling and faintly unsettling sidekick, Frank Field, cooed, simpered, nodded and emanated an air of menacing rationality as he insisted that he did not wish to "rough any claimants up".

There is something Pinteresque about Mr Field. I think he may be in charge.

## Blair plans further tightening of the rules for ministers

By Valerie Elliott and Andrew Pierce

TONY BLAIR has ordered a review of the rules and protocol for ministers in a further attempt to tighten control over his Government.

The Prime Minister believes the Questions of Procedure for Ministers, which were last updated in 1992, need rewriting and should make clear that ministers are expected to operate as team players. He also wishes to ensure that the guidance takes note of all the concerns raised by Lord Nolan on standards in public life. The rules deal with such matters as hospitality, expenses, gifts and financial interests.

The move follows Mr Blair's personal appeal for every policy statement, speech and press release to be cleared with Downing Street. He also wants the floating of policy

ideas to be properly coordinated and for ministers to disclose their intentions before briefing journalists on particular subjects.

Last night, government sources made clear they believed the system was already working and that ministers were respecting the control that Mr Blair wished to exert at the heart of government. It was evident, too, that they were pleased that the personal memo had been leaked to show the public that the Prime Minister meant business in offering strategic leadership to the Government.

One source also pointed to the present guidance to ministers, which already sets out the "dos and don'ts" on the presentation of policy. "There is nothing new in this, but we are enforcing it. The same rules

applied to John Major's ministers but he did not control them."

It also emerged yesterday that Rachel Lomax, the Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, has said she does not wish to be considered as strategic head of the Downing Street policy unit. Mrs Lomax, widely tipped for the key post at No 10, told Mr Blair that she was committed to her job in Wales which she has not yet held for a year. She also wrote to all staff at the Welsh Office yesterday confirming her intention to stay in Wales and instructed her press office to "kill the story".

The search for a senior figure to head the policy unit continues. Downing Street sources said last night that Mr Blair had no intention of being hurried into an appointment. "This is a long-term Government and the person he wants has to be the right candidate to push through policy ideas."

It is clear, however, that a senior official in this key role would help to defuse some of the criticism about the number of political appointments made by Mr Blair in Downing Street. He confirmed last night that he had increased the number of political advisers across Whitehall. The Government "has recruited 53 advisers so far, compared to 38 who were in post in February before John Major called the election."

Mr Blair told MPs last night: "As we made clear during the election campaign, I believe it is important to bolster the centre of government and bring in fresh ideas, while at the same time maintaining and supporting a politically neutral civil service."

Leading article, page 19

## Welfare to work

Continued from page 1  
erment, not punishment, so that as many children as possible can grow up in working households with the expectation of a job themselves.

"We should reject the rootless morality whose symptom is a false choice between bleeding hearts and couldn't-care-less, when what we need is one grounded in the core British values, the sense of balance between rights and duties."

"The basis of this modern civil society is an ethic of mutual responsibility or duty. It is something for something. A society where we play by the rules. You only take out if you put in. That's the bargain."

He highlighted figures showing that five million people of working age lived in

homes where nobody works while more than a million had never worked since leaving school.

Alongside that, Britain had a higher proportion of single-parent families than anywhere else in Europe.

A generation of young men had little to replace the manufacturing jobs that had been lost, while many young women found that early pregnancy and the absence of a reliable father almost guaranteed a life of poverty.

"The task of reshaping welfare to reward hard work is daunting. But we must be absolutely clear that our challenge is to help all those people who want to work but are not working with the jobs, the training and the support they need."



David Rigg, Tim Holley, and Sir George Russell, of Camelot, arrive at their meeting with the Heritage Secretary

## Camelot blames its foulweather friends

By Carol Midgley

AS EXCUSES go, it sounded pretty lame. Camelot insisted that the reason for a big drop in sales of lottery tickets on Saturday was not a public backlash against directors' pay rises, but the weather.

Glorious sunshine, explained the National Lottery operator, was one of the main reasons that fewer punters both-

ered to queue for tickets. This, and the fact that there had just been a rollover jackpot, explained the £4.5 million slump in sales on May 31 over the previous week. "On hot days people don't tend to go shopping," a spokeswoman said. It's the same with Bank Holidays or Cup finals. It all affects sales.

Yesterday *The Times* subjected Camelot's theory to empirical analysis and

failed to reach a serious conclusion. Last weekend, when Camelot had online sales of £58.6 million, was warm and sunny; the previous week it had been cool, and sales reached £63.1 million. A similar dip came on June 15, 1996, and on August 17, both hot days.

Yet in May 1995 Camelot suffered three consecutive lean weeks when the weather was cloudy and cool, with showers.

## Bank fears building society payout will stoke up inflation

By Alasdair Murray

THE bumper payout to the Halifax members who were yesterday celebrating their share of the £18.5 billion float windfall is likely to have prompted frowns rather than smiles at the Bank of England.

The Bank has already expressed concern about the high level of consumer spending, which it believes will lead to higher inflation, and will be worried that Halifax members who have cashed in their shares will head off on a spectacular weekend shopping spree.

The payout may well persuade the Bank to use its new powers and raise interest rates by a quarter-point to 6.5 per cent in an attempt to slow consumer spending when its monetary policy committee meets for the first time on Thursday and Friday.

The City has been worrying for some time about the potential impact of the building society wind-

fall payouts. The total, with the Woolwich and Northern Rock flotations still to come, is likely to be nearly a third higher than originally expected, at about £30 billion. This is the biggest influx of new money into the economy, dwarfing even the payouts from the privatisation flotations or tax cuts of the 1980s.

Most of the money, which is mainly in the form of shares, will not be cashed in during the first year. But the indications from the Halifax and the Alliance & Leicester floats are that about a quarter of building society members — about four million people — are immediately trading in their shares for cash.

If this trend continues, there will be an extra £7 billion in the economy this year — the equivalent of cutting the standard rate of income tax by almost 5p. But economists are divided as to whether all of this will

be spent immediately, causing a boom on the High Street and, ultimately, higher inflation.

David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, predicts that the windfalls will mean annual growth in consumer spending jumping from the current level of 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent by the end of the year. He argues that taxes and interest rates will need to rise to head off higher inflation, although consumer spending will remain lower than in the boom years of the late 1980s when it averaged about 6.5 per cent a year.

But other economists predict the impact of the windfall payouts will be less dramatic, with only about 10 per cent of members spending the money immediately and total consumer spending rising by less than 0.5 per cent.

Business, pages 25-29

### SHARE OPTIONS FOR THE WINDFALL WINNERS

Q: Do I have to pay tax on my shares?

A: It all depends on your situation. As a shareholder you will receive dividends, your share of the company's profits. Tax at the rate of 20 per cent is deducted at source from dividends. If you are a basic-rate taxpayer, you will have no further tax to pay. But if you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you will have to pay a further 20 per cent.

Those who dispose of the shares could face a capital gains tax bill, but only if they have already used up their annual capital gains allowance of £5,500. You can avoid both capital gains and income tax by sheltering shares in a personal equity plan (Pepl). Should I sell my shares?

If you have debts, it may be more cost-effective to sell and clear all or

some of the debts. For example, the cost of borrowing £1,000 on a credit card over a year could be as high as £221. However, if you can afford to hang on to your shares, you can expect the Halifax share price to remain strong. The new bank, which matches Barclays in size and is one of the ten largest stockmarket-quoted companies, has plenty of spare cash. It should soon embark on the takeover trail, a move that should further enhance the share price.

The prospect of further growth is encouraging many to buy more shares. But there is no guarantee that the price of any company will continue to rise. Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest stockbrokers, believes that investors should prepare to sell as the banking sector and the whole

stockmarket look overvalued. I sold my shares. How soon will I be able to get my hands on the money?

Those who sold through the Halifax sharedealing service in the first auction of shares to institutions will be able to withdraw their cash on Friday.

Can I now move my savings from the Halifax?

You can now shop around for the best rate and the chance of a windfall elsewhere. The low level of Halifax savers' rates has attracted criticism. Although the new bank has now raised its savers' rates there is now strong competition from other banks, building societies and the banking divisions of supermarkets.

ANNE ASHWORTH

## Clarke in call for delay over EMU date

Kenneth Clarke called on the European Union yesterday to delay moves to bring in a single currency. The former Chancellor, whose refusal to rule out economic and monetary union made him the target of Tory Eurosceptics in the last Parliament, said that the victory of the Left in the French elections and Germany's "unwise" attempt to revalue its gold reserves made the case for delaying EMU even stronger. "It is increasingly clear that EMU cannot proceed on a safe and sustainable basis in January 1999."

### Cancer surgery

Sir James Goldsmith has undergone surgery at a private Paris hospital after being admitted for treatment for a recurrence of pancreatic cancer. There were conflicting reports about the condition of Sir James, the founder of the Referendum Party, with one family friend saying he was seriously ill, but not "at death's door" as suggested.

### Microsoft talks

Cambridge University confirmed that talks are under way with Microsoft on the establishment of a research centre, but that they were "at a very preliminary stage". Industry sources say that recruitment has started for a research group of up to 100. Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder, refuses to acknowledge the project's existence.

### Advert attacked

A hostess's wife has attacked a TV commercial for trivialising her husband's plight. Julie Mangan, 35, whose husband, Keith, is held by Kashmiri separatists, complained to Rover and the Independent Television Commission about a commercial showing a captive being driven to freedom in a Rover. The ITC said it had received 63 complaints.

### Long Mynd fire

Almost 100 firefighters were called to a hill fire at a beauty spot yesterday. The fire on The Long Mynd, a 1,700ft hill in Shropshire, was fanned by strong winds and spread from heather and gorse to engulf 50 acres of woodland. Police said that the fire, which was on Forestry Commission land, was not believed to have been started deliberately.

### Bullimore sails

Tony Bullimore set out from Cherbourg on a month-long race yesterday after gale-force winds delayed the start. The yachtsman was at sea again with a six-strong crew, five months after he was rescued from his upturned boat in freezing waters in the Southern Ocean by the Australian Navy. The eventual destination is Stockholm.

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## DIRECT Debit

## Elder brother weeps in court as jury is told how he lives off the family name

## Last Kray is a 'pathetic old has-been'

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE elder brother of the Kray twins has become a "pathetic old has-been", cashing in on the family name and cadging drinks and cash, a jury was told yesterday.

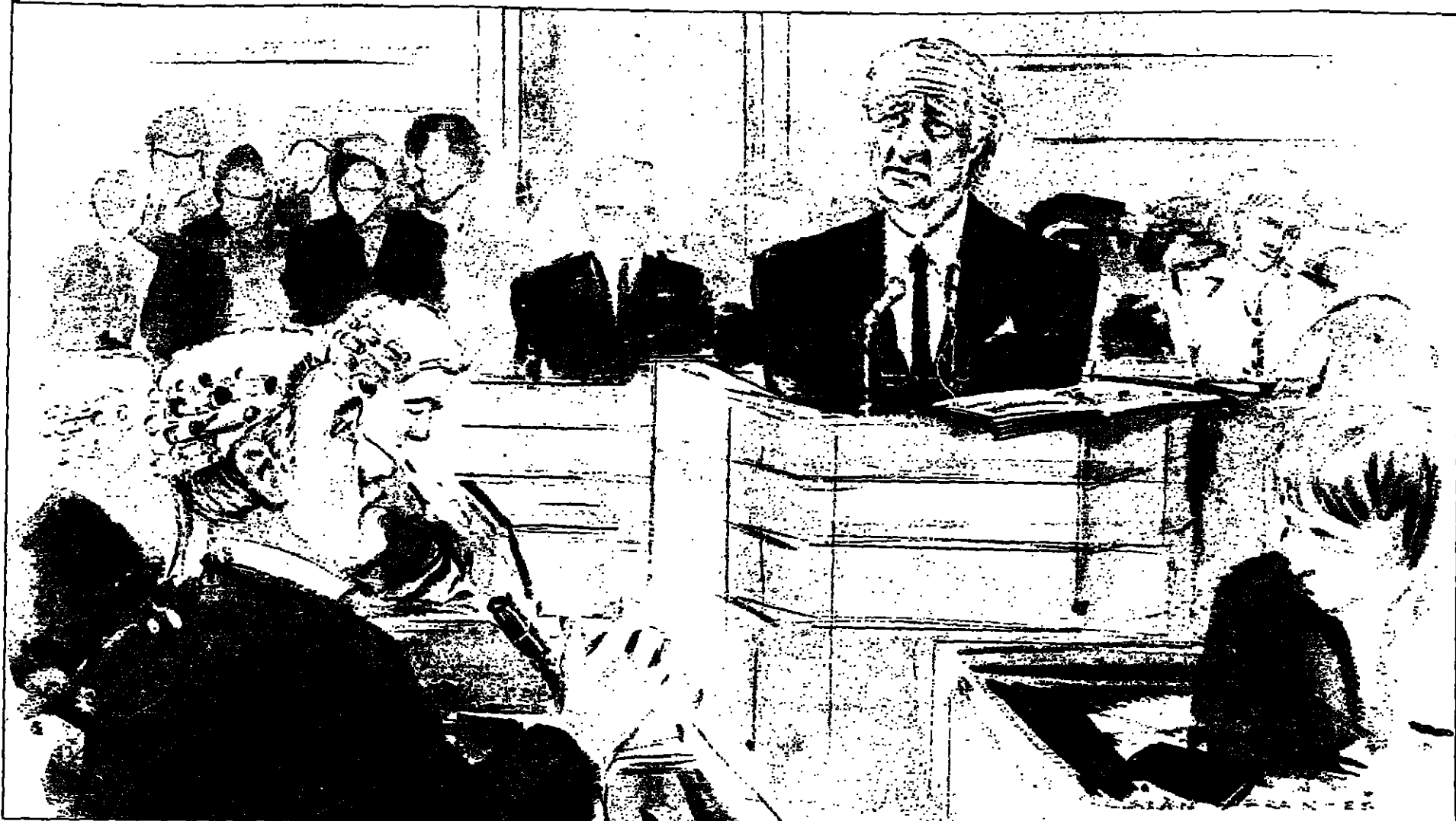
Charlie Kray, accused of being the linchpin in a drugs deal to sell cocaine worth £39 million to undercover police, was no more than a "skint" old man trying to cheat cash out of his victims, Woolwich Crown Court was told.

Mr Kray, 70, whose brothers, Ronnie and Reggie were once the "emperors of gangland", broke down in tears as he stood hunched in the witness box and told how he was so short of money that he had been unable to pay for the funeral of his son who died, aged 44, of cancer last year.

Mr Kray, who said he lived in his girlfriend's home in Sanderstead, south London, with her three sons, denies two drugs charges. Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, said that police had lured a foolish man into a carefully laid trap. "This old fool thought he could string them and con them along."

On the night the undercover police met him, Mr Kray had borrowed £50 to stand his round of drinks at a party. He had been "skint" for years, Mr Goldberg said, and was still broke when the police began negotiating with him over the drug deal. He had no bank account or credit cards and, at one point during the police operation, obtained £500 from the undercover officers themselves.

Quoting from Lady Bracknell's description of Algernon in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mr Goldberg said that Mr Kray "was nothing, but he looks everything". He might seem suave, "like a million



Charlie Kray in the dock: he broke down in tears as he told the court that he could not afford to pay for his son's funeral after he died of cancer. Illustration: Siân Frances

dollars", as he went round a room greeting people like a politician, but it was a false picture. He was "the old trupper doing his best".

He made a living off the family name, like the brothers of other famous men, such as Terry Major-Ball. The Kray name was good for a free drink or accommodation.

Mr Goldberg said Mr Kray was also very good at "bull"

He had been doing it all his life. The stories he told the undercover officers about Mossad and criminals were rubbish. He was "a man with a heart of gold, naive, gullible", but he did not know his own limitations.

If Mr Kray had been asked if he could get Scud missiles or gold bars, he would have said it was no problem. He was a "pathetic old has-been, a thor-

oughly washed-up figure hyped up by police and prosecution".

All his life Mr Kray had been a victim of the family name which was synonymous with gangsterism. He was unemployed. He had managed a failed pop group and gone bankrupt running a clothing firm. Now he earned what money he could from

talking about the old days for television interviews and charity functions.

A former professional boxer, he was known to hate violence. In the heyday of his twin brothers in the 1960s, he had acted as the entertainment agent for their clubs and knew stars such as Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra.

His only convictions were a £5 fine for theft in 1950 and ten years in 1969 for taking part in

discussions on how to get rid of the body of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, killed by his brothers. Mr Goldberg said he had always denied the charge.

Mr Kray, who denies charges of offering to supply and supplying cocaine, had been trapped by an operation aimed at another "lovable old villain" known to Mr Kray. Mr Goldberg said police had acted as *agents provocateurs*.

It would have been a feather in the police cap to get "the last of the Krays".

Mr Goldberg said the case was surrounded by hype, with Mr Kray given the security status in prison applied to IRA terrorists. The jury were under 24-hour police surveillance, but the two kilograms of cocaine seized by the police was worth only £60,000.

The trial continues.

## Twins 'treated normal people with great respect and helped them'

CHARLIE KRAY was almost inaudible as he stood in the witness box in a rumpled blue suit. A handkerchief peeked from his breast pocket.

Asked about his younger twin brothers, Ronnie and Reggie, he told the court that he often played the role of peacemaker between them. "I know they were wild and I always tried to keep them in the right direction," he said, "but you can't be with someone 24 hours a day."

Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, said: "The public perception of your brothers is of very violent and bloody gangsters."

"Yes, until they knew them."

Mr Kray recalled that Ronnie, who died in Broadmoor in March 1995, had a long history of mental illness. But he was a kind-hearted man, he insisted. "He would help anybody. He was not responsible when he had these moods and I would put it down to that."

Of Reggie, he said: "He had a few

fits and things like that. When his wife, Frances, died, he kind of had a death wish. He idolised the girl and he seemed to go overboard when that happened."

Mr Goldberg asked: "How are the Krays regarded in the East End?"

Mr Kray replied: "We knew it was wrong, but normal people in life, they always treated with great respect and always helped. If you go to the East End and ask about them, they will say the same and they always helped people as best they could."

He said that in 1975, after he was released from a ten-year prison sentence for being an accessory to his brothers' murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, he found that his surname prevented him from getting a job. Eventually he found work for several years at the Ideal Home Exhibition, selling cutlery from a stand. People came up to him and asked about the "good old days".

During further questioning, he was

asked to describe the East End when his brothers were "kings". Mr Goldberg asked: "You say there was a bit less violence and the like?"

Mr Kray: "Yes sir. That is my opinion. Women were safe and children were safe to go out at night. They're not now."

Mr Goldberg: "And these were the kinds of condition your brothers enforced?"

Mr Kray: "They helped."

Mr Goldberg: "The degree of violence today you say is not necessary?"

Mr Kray: "There was no violence, in as much as there was a bit, but women and children were safe."

Mr Goldberg: "Your brothers insisted on that?"

Mr Kray: "They did."

He told the court: "I never thought that by telling stories I could get into trouble, but I am now. I swear on the grave of my son I have never been serious about drugs."



The Kray brothers in London in 1965: left to right, Ronnie, Reggie and Charlie

## Husband 'burnt £100,000 after wife walked out'

BY JOANNA BALE

A MAN told a court yesterday that he burnt £100,000 in his back garden after withdrawing it from a joint account he shared with his former wife.

Raymond Orton said the money was intended to provide him and his wife, Brenda, with a comfortable retirement. When the marriage ended he became depressed and decided to dispose of it, along with £25,000 from the sale of shares.

Mr Orton, 62, told Gloucester County Court: "I did it in the back garden. I got a big tin, put some newspaper in, set light to that and just slung the money on." He said he had been unable to cash the cheque from the joint account at the Halifax immediately, so he took it to the foreign exchange counter of a Birmingham post office and cashed it for Irish currency.

"I just wanted some cash to burn," he said. "I was going to have Spanish pesetas but it was too much paper."

Mr Orton, from Sheldon, Birmingham, is accused of breaching an undertaking not to dispose of any joint assets from the marriage pending a hearing into an application by his former wife for ancillary relief. Paul Barclay, for Mrs Orton, said she did not want to see her former husband sent to prison despite him having disposed of most of their joint assets of £197,000. Mr Barclay said: "Nevertheless, this is a most unhappy matter. If he is telling the truth then he has disposed of the largest portion of their assets."

Mrs Orton, 61, left her

husband in November 1995 and he became severely depressed after she refused a reconciliation. He first withdrew £100,000 last year but paid it back on the orders of a county court judge.

Mr Orton told the court that it was his account but he had it in joint names so that his wife would have easier access. He said: "It had come from an industrial accident and I built it up over 15 years. It was to make a reasonable retirement for both of us. I felt it was 15 years for nothing. It was all one big waste of time for me so I destroyed it."

He said that after burning the cash he dumped the tin and the ashes in his dustbin.

Mr Orton said that earlier he had tried to take his own life but had been stopped by his son and daughter. The suicide attempt had seriously affected his health and he was undergoing psychiatric treatment. He said he was on tranquillisers when he burnt the cash and was very confused. He denied claims that he had been secretive about financial matters and obsessed by money.

Adjourning the hearing for further inquiries, Judge Hunton said: "There is no verification of his most extraordinary evidence. It is a most extraordinary case. I am just not satisfied with his explanation and further inquiries will have to be made."

He told Mr Orton, who was not represented, that there was a risk of him being sent to prison and suggested he contact a solicitor.

## Princess bids fond farewell to dress collection

BY EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, said farewell to her collection of evening dresses for the last time last night before they were flown to New York, where they will be auctioned by Christie's on June 25.

At a private viewing in London yesterday, the Princess was told that £660,000 had been raised from sales of auction catalogues. A limited edition of 250 purple leather catalogues, at £1,250 each and signed by the Princess, has sold out. Cheaper versions of the same catalogue, which itemise all the dresses, are still available at £30 and £160.

All proceeds from catalogue sales, and from the auction, which is expected to raise £4 million, will go to the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund and the Aids Crisis Trust.

The collection will remain on public display at Christie's in St James's, central London, until Friday. Admission is by the £30 catalogue, which provides two tickets for the exhibition. The Princess's changing taste in clothes is evident from the collection, which includes gowns from 1981 to 1996.

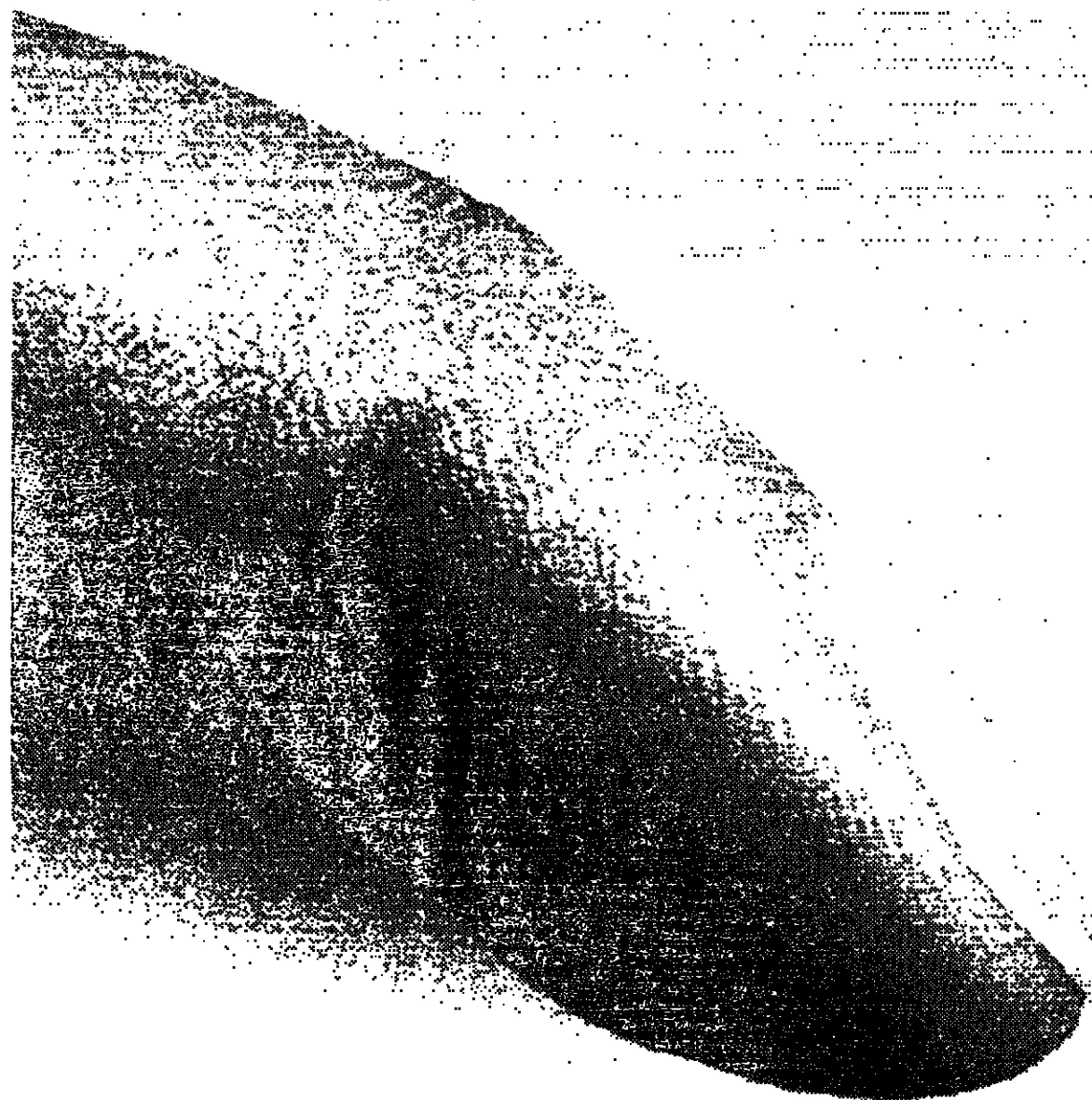
The earliest, Lot 23, is a pale blue confection by the Emmanuels — makers of her wedding dress. The most recent is Lot 51 — a navy blue sheath evening dress by Catherine Walker which the Princess wore in New York in 1996.

The dresses range from size eight to 12. Victor Edelstein, who designed one of the most stunning dresses in the collection, was unable to attend. His creation — a long sleeveless dress in oyster satin — is expected to fetch the highest individual price of about £200,000. The dress, which is featured on the front of the catalogue, was designed for a visit by the Princess to the Elysée Palace in 1988.

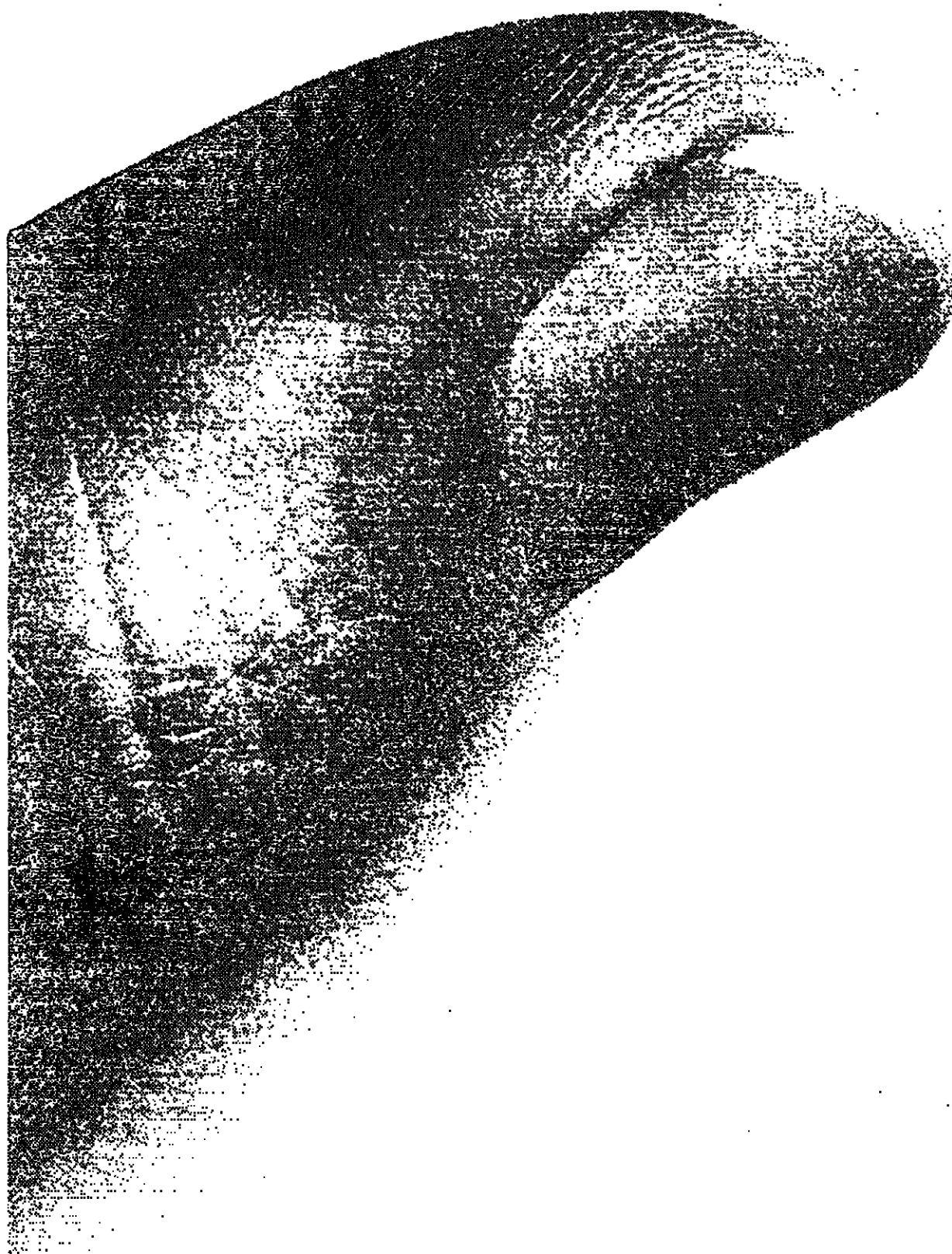
The dress is Lot 80 but there are only 79 dresses in the auction. The Princess is, apparently, superstitious and ordered there should be no Lot 13. The dresses will be flown to New York in the next two weeks in a special crate so they can hang in their bags for the flight. A viewing will be held there on June 18.

Photograph, page 24

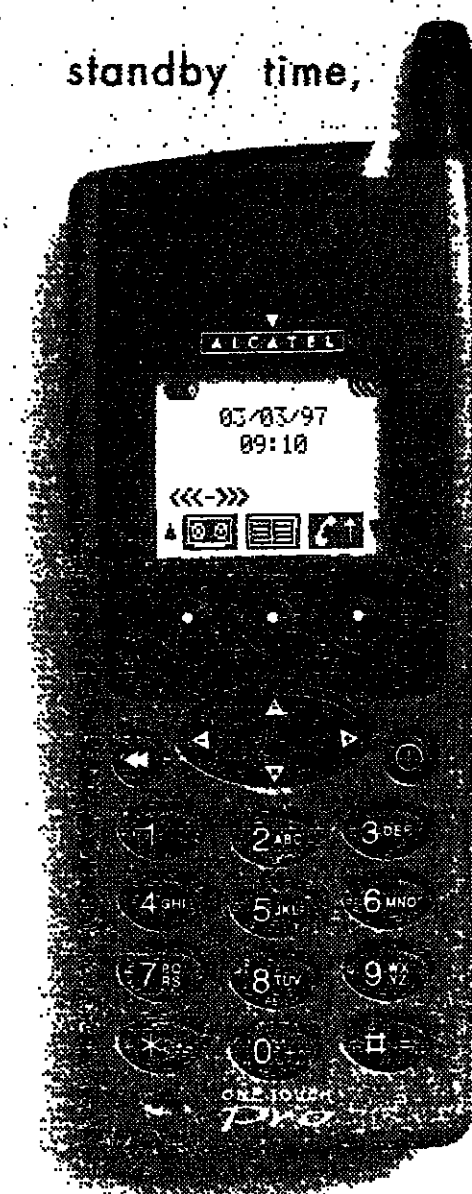




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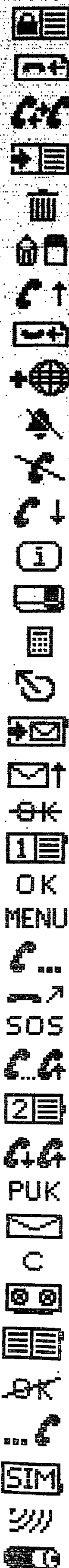
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# Giant in Doll's House wins Tony for best actress



Plummer: leading actor award for Barrymore

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE British production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* has been garlanded on Broadway with four Tony Awards, including best actress for Janet McTeer.

The version of Ibsen's 1879 classic, which moved to New York in April after a successful West End run, was named best revival at an awards ceremony in New York on Sunday night. McTeer, the critics' overwhelming favourite, won best actress for her performance as Nora Helmer, the distraught wife who struggles for independence in her stifling marriage to the bank manager Thorvald.

McTeer, 35, from York, graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts alongside Fiona Shaw and Ralph Fiennes and is best known for her title role in the television series *The Gover-*

nor. She also played Vita Sackville-West in the television drama *Portrait of a Marriage* and performed on the West End in *Much Ado About Nothing* and in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* before winning an Olivier Award during the London run of *A Doll's House*.

Accepting her Tony, the towering actress, her hair cropped in a boyish style, said: "This all started when I took out our producer, Thelma Holt, got her very drunk and managed to persuade her that I was 5ft 2in and girly. Actually, I think she thought I wanted to play Thorvald."

McTeer's performance has been lauded by American reviewers as one of the best in memory. *Variety* described it as a whirlwind and one *New York Times* critic wrote that her "apparition on Broadway



Janet McTeer celebrates her Tony for best actress in *A Doll's House* with a helping hand from awards ceremony presenter Alec Baldwin

suggests the theatre's timely answer to the Hale-Bopp comet.

Owen Teale, one of three other actors transplanted to New York with the London production, was named best featured actor for his part as Thorvald, after the producers asked for him to be moved to

that category from best leading actor. Anthony Page won best director.

This year's Tony Awards, staged in the 6,200-seat auditorium at Radio City Music Hall and broadcast live on television in an effort to duplicate the success of the Oscars, were not without disappoint-

ments for British contenders. The 763 critics and theatre professionals who choose the winners awarded best play to Alfred Lohr's piece about Jews in the American South, *Last Night at Ballyhoo*.

Christopher Plummer won best leading actor for his one-man show *Barrymore*, about

the actor John Barrymore, over Brian Bedford in Dion Boucicault's *London Assurance*. Michael Gambon (*Skyline*) and Anthony Sher (*Stanley*). In a strong field of new musicals, the big winner was the much-ridiculed *Titanic*, an improbable song-and-dance about the sinking

of the ocean liner. *Titanic* sailed away from the competition with five awards: best musical, book, original score, scenic design and orchestration. The popular revival of the musical *Chicago* picked up six awards.

Theatre, page 34

## Pupils win right to legal action over repairs

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO schoolboys won the right yesterday to take a council to court because their school is allegedly in such a poor state of repair that it is a health hazard.

The boys, both pupils at Childwall Comprehensive School, on Merseyside, claim water cascades down the blackboard whenever it rains because Liverpool City Council has not carried out repairs that would cost £2 million.

They took their case to Liverpool Magistrates' Court with their fathers, who are both parent-governors at the 1,350-pupil school. Simon Worthington, 14, dressed in his school uniform, was in court to hear the stipendiary magistrate, David Tapp, rule that there was a case for the council to answer and that a trial should go ahead. However, Alexander Salisbury, 15, had to miss proceedings because he was sitting his GCSE examinations in biology and French.

After the hearing, Simon said: "I am overjoyed by the result. We have got to see it through. The situation is impossible when it rains. In my form room sometimes half the blackboard cannot be used as water cascades down. We have to watch where we stand so that we don't get our feet wet in the puddles."

The boys and their fathers, with the support of other parents, claim that the build-

ing has become so dilapidated since it was built in the 1950s that lessons are impaired and the environment constitutes a danger to health.

The council denies any offences under the Environmental Health Act. It claimed in court that teenagers could not be complainants or prosecutors in criminal proceedings.

Ranjit Bhoze, for the council, said it was also clear that neither the boys nor their fathers were "persons aggrieved" and did not enjoy any "proprietary rights".

Mr Bhoze said: "The correct remedy is to make a complaint to the Secretary of State. He can then take into account the views of the local authority and the fact that there are budget constraints."

Timothy King, QC, for the pupils, said there was nothing in the law prohibiting a minor from bringing a case to court. He said: "This school is in an appalling state of repair and is prejudicing the health of all who attend, be they parent, child or teacher."

Liverpool City Council is expected to deny four charges of causing a statutory nuisance under Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The case is expected to last four days and is likely to be heard on October 20 by Mr Tapp, who described the action as unusual. "I am not aware of anything similar," he said.

There is nothing to say that a minor can prosecute but then there is nothing to say that a minor cannot prosecute. I see no reason why these two boys should not go forward with their complaint."

After the hearing, Mr Worthington said the boys' legal costs were being underwritten by parents at the school.

### CORRECTION

The Labour candidate for Hertford and Stortford in the general election was Simon Speller, not D Harbourne, as reported on April 17. We apologise for the error.

### THE BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint from Mr Richard Chipperfield and Ms Anne Chipperfield, and a complaint from Mr Tony Hopkins - Summary of adjudication

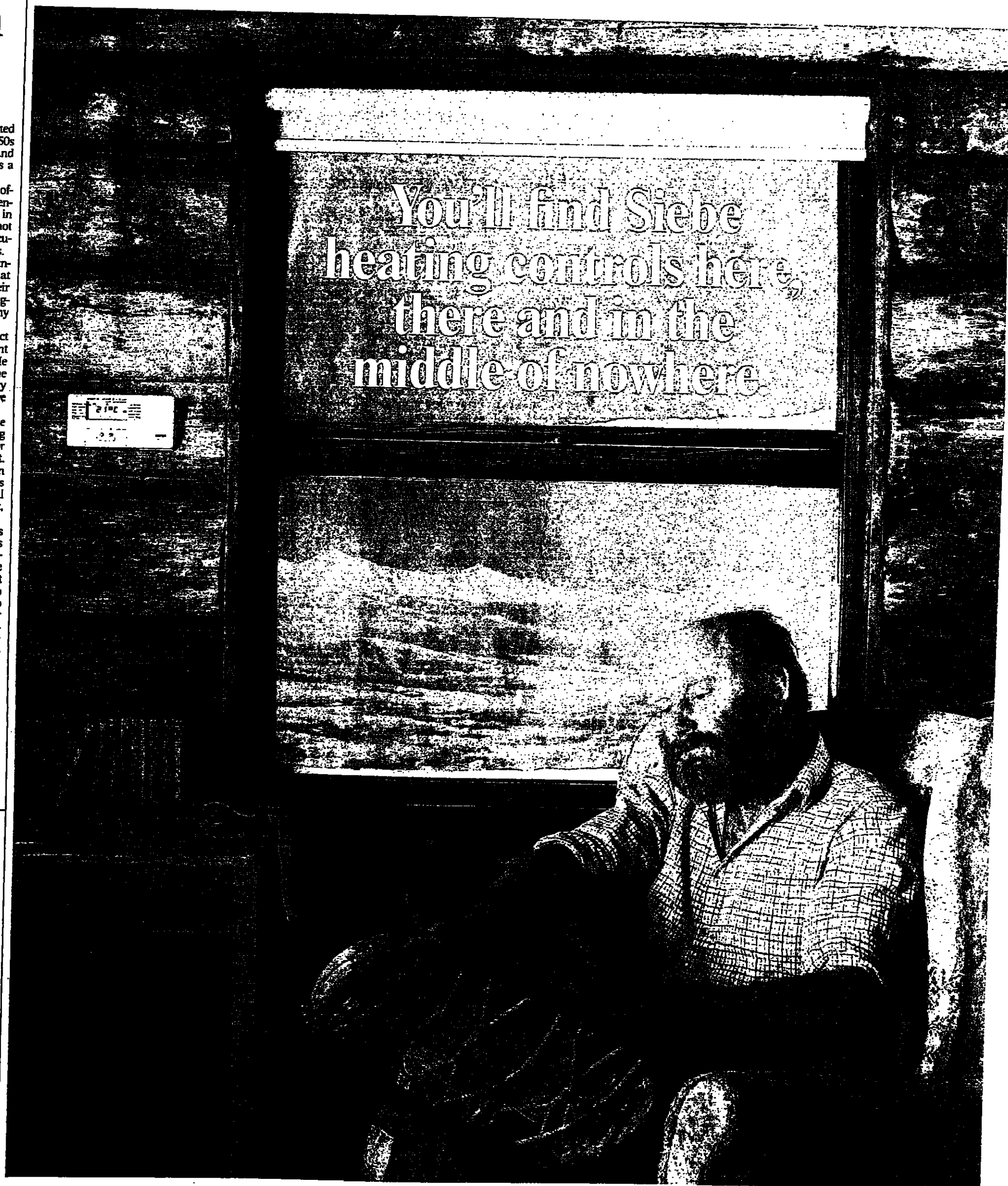
On 22 May 1996, the BBC programme *Here and Now* reported on the care of circus animals in winter quarters. The programme included video footage shot by an animal rights group on land owned by Mr Richard Chipperfield and Ms Anne Chipperfield. Mr and Ms Chipperfield complained to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (now the Broadcasting Standards Commission) that the programme included pictures and comments which unfairly implied that their animals were kept in cramped, unsafe and stressful conditions, and that the filming unwarrantably infringed their privacy. Mr Tony Hopkins, trading under the name Chipperfields Circus, also complained that the programme was unfair to him in that viewers were misled into assuming that he had some responsibility for the welfare of the animals shown.

The Commission accepts that the investigation by *Here and Now* concerned a matter of public interest, but its reliance on a video shot by an animals' welfare campaigning group, to the virtual exclusion of other expert opinion, was unfair to Mr and Ms Chipperfield. The Commission recognises that the BBC made strenuous efforts to persuade Mr Chipperfield to take part, but his refusal to participate in a programme-makers of their obligation to provide a fair and balanced treatment of a complex and emotive issue. The video shots on and of Mr and Ms Chipperfield's property clearly infringed their privacy, and the unfairness of the programme's treatment of the issue undermined the BBC's argument that such infringement was warranted in the public interest. The Commission therefore finds both unfairness and an unwarranted infringement of Mr and Ms Chipperfield's privacy.

The Commission does not consider that the programme's attempt to film Chipperfields Circus was in itself unfair, but by its use of a still of the circus and a poster advertising it, the programme had the effect of associating Mr Hopkins with the alleged ill-treatment of animals which he did not own and were not in his care. This was unfair.

The Commission therefore upholds the complaints by both Mr and Ms Chipperfield, and by Mr Hopkins.

You may obtain a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Standards Commission (F), 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.



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No takers for 'welfare to work' among single mothers on council estate

## Blair walks on the wild side to meet forgotten people

BY ALAN HAMILTON

FOR his first foray since taking office into the real world of the people who voted for him, Tony Blair chose the third most deprived ward in the London Borough of Southwark.

But the Aylesbury estate, a mighty sprawl of 44 early 1970s council blocks deep in Harriet Harman's constituency behind the Old Kent Road, is bad enough. Of its 2,400 households and estimated 8,000 population, only a third own their own homes, more than half are on housing benefit, 17 per cent of households are without a wage-earner and more than three-quarters of all 17-year-olds are neither in work nor full-time education.

It was not, perhaps, the most fruitful ground in which to plant the seeds of "welfare to work". Take away the media circus, the council worthies, the voluntary workers and a small group of youths learning basic computer skills in the estate's retraining centre, and there was a distinct absence of ordinary residents lining their balconies to greet the Prime Minister.

Some, to be fair, were waiting for Mr Blair in the CadCam training centre, a

suite of rooms deep in the estate where jobless youths are taught basic computing skills. Maura Santos, manager of the centre, said that in five years 3,000 people had been trained there, more than three-quarters of whom had gone on to jobs or further education.

Sue Lomas was not one of them. She did the computer course, took a degree at South Bank University and is still looking for work. "The jobs are just not out there. I've been looking for a job for five years and all I've done in that time is voluntary work. That doesn't give you any monetary value when you go for interviews."

Aylesbury estate has a high proportion of single mothers, most of whom stayed well away from Mr Blair's visit, perhaps out of fear that he might frogmarch them to the jobcentre there and then, despite government assurances that it would not force single parents into work.

Pauline Harris, 21, was standing at a safe distance with her five-month-old daughter, Danielle. A trained dental nurse, she said she was not working and received £80.10 per week in state benefits. "It would be a breath of

fresh air to go back to work, but I wouldn't want to leave the baby with someone I didn't trust. Frankly, some of the childminders and nurseries they offer you round here are just terrible. I wouldn't go near them."

She calculated that she could not afford to go back to work. "I'm better off on benefit and seeing my baby, rather than going out to a job for £150 a week and leaving her with a minder. Single mothers won't be fighting for jobs until there are far better care facilities."

Gina Stokes, another single mother, was perched on a sunny wall nursing Stuart, aged one, the youngest of four children who ranged up to 11. Miss Stokes, a former cashier, had no mind at present to look for work. "I like bringing the kids up. I wouldn't want to look for work until Stuart is at least three or four. I get £200 a week in benefits, so I'm not going out to work for less than £300 or £400 a week, and there ain't many jobs like that around here."

The mothers of Aylesbury estate were agreed that the hardest thing in their area was bringing up children in an atmosphere free from crime. Kevin Holland, the estate's community policeman, said that crime levels had dropped since the removal of the overhead walkways connecting the blocks of flats, which formed ideal escape routes for burglars and muggers, and since the introduction of private security guards.

Ms Lomas added: "They've reduced break-ins, but there's still plenty of crime among kids. They get expelled from school, or thrown out of youth clubs for being naughty, and they take to wheeler-dealing on the streets. They've got status if they've been expelled."

She added: "There's such apathy here — the only way you can get money for a place like this is to have a riot. Otherwise there's no jobs and no hope for the young."



Gina Stokes with her children yesterday. She said she would not work for less than £300 a week



Pauline Harris with Danielle: "I'm better off on benefit and seeing my baby"

## Labour studied examples in United States and Australia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

TWO vastly different programmes, in the United States and Australia, were studied by the Government when it was formulating its proposals to get single parents back to work.

In the United States, limits have been set for the first time on the benefits available to those on welfare. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act will mean thousands of single mothers are required to find work within two years. Individual states must place a five-year cap on benefits and compel a single parent to work or train for

employment once his or her child reaches three months.

This departure from the status quo in a country where young, poorly-educated, unskilled mothers have traditionally stayed at home with their children, has been applauded by many Americans increasingly intolerant of single parents who rely on welfare to raise a family. But it is already creating a vast demand for childcare, as over the next few years, an additional 2.5 million children now at home on welfare may require facilities.

In Australia, Bob Hawke's Labor Government introduced the Job programme in 1989. Under the voluntary scheme, standing for Jobs Education and Training, single parents can increase their incomes by finding paid work, or undergoing a job-related training or study.

A single parent studying on a Government-approved course is eligible for a small weekly education supplement, in addition to his or her sole parent pension. Extra money is available to pay for enrolment fees and books. Home study is included in the options available.

Lawrence Cunliffe, a Labour MP, had attacked alleged racism within the organisation as "hypocritical, divisive and anachronistic".

A controversial former barrister, Mr Narayan was disbarred in 1994 after allegations of financial impropriety. In December 1995, he referred to the Brixton police as killers after the death of a young black man, Wayne Douglas in police custody. Mr Narayan said: "They will not understand what they have done until one of them is killed." Riots broke out an hour after he addressed a crowd.

The case continues.

## Racial equality commission 'discriminates against Asians'

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE Commission for Racial Equality systematically discriminated against Asian staff and blocked the promotion of a well-qualified Asian lawyer for racial reasons, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Raj Naidoo, a South African-born Indian barrister who works for the commission, told the London South industrial tribunal that she had been victimised by the commission's legal director and twice passed over for promotion in favour of less experienced and less qualified candidates from outside the organisation. She said that Asians suffered routine discrimination from the predominantly Afro-Caribbean commission.

Approximately 60 per cent of the CRE's staff were black Afro-Caribbeans, while only 17 per cent were Asian.

Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal that Chris Boothman, the legal director, who is black, had deliberately given her low marks in an interview when she applied for the job of principal legal officer in 1995, a post she had previously held between 1985 and 1989 before taking unpaid leave to study for a doctorate. "I did not get that job because Mr Boothman gave me low markings, because of his vendetta against me," Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal. She failed to get the job by just four marks.

She also accused Mr Boothman of trying to favour Selina Hayden, a black candidate for the job, by setting a question on the legal response to racist leaflets, a topic that Mrs Hayden had been dealing with two weeks before the interviews in August 1995.

Mr Boothman had frustrated her career since she returned to the commission to work in the complaints department in 1993, Mrs Naidoo said. She was passed over for the job of principal legal officer in 1994 and made an application to an industrial tribunal, which was later withdrawn, that she had been racially discriminated against when refused that post. She said that Mr Boothman had

pursued a vendetta against her after this, had advised her to leave the commission and had tried to block her promotion.

She also alleged that Aubrey Rose, the chairman of the appointments commission, who is Jewish, had been influenced to select the successful applicant, Barbara Cohen, because she was Jewish.

The commission's solicitor, Paul Nicholls, said that Mr Boothman and Mr Rose had acted with "absolute correctness" throughout the procedure leading to Mrs Cohen's appointment. He told the tribunal that while Mrs Naidoo's experience was considerable, the job of principal legal officer had changed since she left it in 1989, and that the commission had been entitled to consider Mrs Cohen's qualifications and experience as equal to Mrs Naidoo's.

He said that the question Mrs Naidoo claimed was set to give Mrs Hayden an advantage did not put Mrs Naidoo at a disadvantage, because she had extensive experience in the same field.

Rudie Narayan, Mrs Naidoo's representative, said that Asians had been systematically discriminated against within the commission for years. He said that the commission perpetrated "racial injustice and discrimination". He also told the tribunal that Ann Winterston, a Conservative MP, Graham Riddick, a former Conservative MP, and Lawrence Cunliffe, a Labour MP, had attacked alleged racism within the organisation as "hypocritical, divisive and anachronistic".

A controversial former barrister, Mr Narayan was disbarred in 1994 after allegations of financial impropriety. In December 1995, he referred to the Brixton police as killers after the death of a young black man, Wayne Douglas in police custody. Mr Narayan said: "They will not understand what they have done until one of them is killed." Riots broke out an hour after he addressed a crowd.

The case continues.

## Mensa hits rich seam in mining village

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

A PIT village school in South Wales has a record number of pupils, 14, who have reached the qualifying score for membership of Mensa.

Only 2 per cent of those usually tested satisfy Mensa's requirement of an IQ of 148. Experts were astounded when 23 per cent of entrants from Brynmawr Comprehensive reached the mark.

Mensa officials moved last week's Junior Convention from Cambridge to the town in recognition of the feat. Now they have launched a national offer of free testing to establish whether other schools have unrecognised talent on a similar scale.

Robert Allen, who edits Mensa's newsletter, said: "Bright children are not always obvious. A couple of the successful ones at Brynmawr



Intelligence corps: the high-IQ children of Brynmawr Comprehensive School

were a surprise to the school. High intelligence isn't confined to a particular social group, and we want to reach kids who wouldn't think of joining an organisation like Mensa."

Clive Boulter, Brynmawr's head teacher, decided to enter a group of pupils for the test to boost their confidence. The town, with a population of 5,445, is ranked among the poorest in Wales, with 13 per cent unemployment.

Mr Boulter said: "I was

confident that a reasonable number of pupils would pass the test, but I was quite amazed when the results came through. I am absolutely delighted because it shows what our pupils can achieve and it is a big confidence boost for the whole village."

Liz Norton, who has an IQ of 155 and is the 15-year-old daughter of the deputy head teacher, said: "People expect us to be weird, but we're as normal as anyone else. I think my dad is a bit jealous because

I'm a member of Mensa and he isn't."

Mr Allen organised the convention, at which 40 children tackled practical problems, produced a plot for a novel and took part in music and drama workshops. He said: "We have always had the junior convention in Cambridge, but Brynmawr did so brilliantly that it seemed appropriate place to meet. Statistically, we expected to find about seven at this level in the school."

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## Disused church forced to reopen for a day to grant father's dying wish

BY JOANNA BALE

A BUSINESSMAN conducted his father's funeral yesterday after a vicar refused to perform the service in a disused church.

Philip Powell said that his father Albert's dying wish was for the ceremony to be in St Decumanus church, in Rhoscowther, Pembrokeshire, which the 80-year-old had cared for since it closed three years ago.

In spite of repeated requests from the Powell family, the Church refused to allow the building to be used. Officials said it would be wrong to hold a service for Mr Powell, who had been a member of the congregation, when similar requests had been turned down.

The Rev Tony Turner, the vicar, wanted the service to be held in the village hall.

Philip Powell, 46, of Surrey, threatened to smash open the doors if he was not allowed into the church. By yesterday morning the doors had been opened. Mr Powell said that "divine intervention had done the trick" and held the service with the help of an undertaker. A graveside service was later conducted by an archdeacon.

Mr Powell said: "I'm very angry that the Church refused to hold a service for my father in the building he loved. My father was a religious man and the Church should have respected his wishes. He looked after that church even after it closed and tended the graveyard free of charge every week."

He said his mother, Florence, 79, was upset about the dispute but had left him to arrange the funeral. Mr Turner said that because

others had requested services after the church was closed an exception could not be made.

The church once served 100 parishioners in 35 homes but was shut because of dwindling congregations. Almost everyone moved out of Rhoscowther after Terace, which

runs a nearby oil refinery, offered to buy them out. The company relocated villagers who disliked being so close to the plant. Albert and Florence Powell were among the few who stayed. Before his death, Mr Powell said: "The only way I'm going is in a wooden box."

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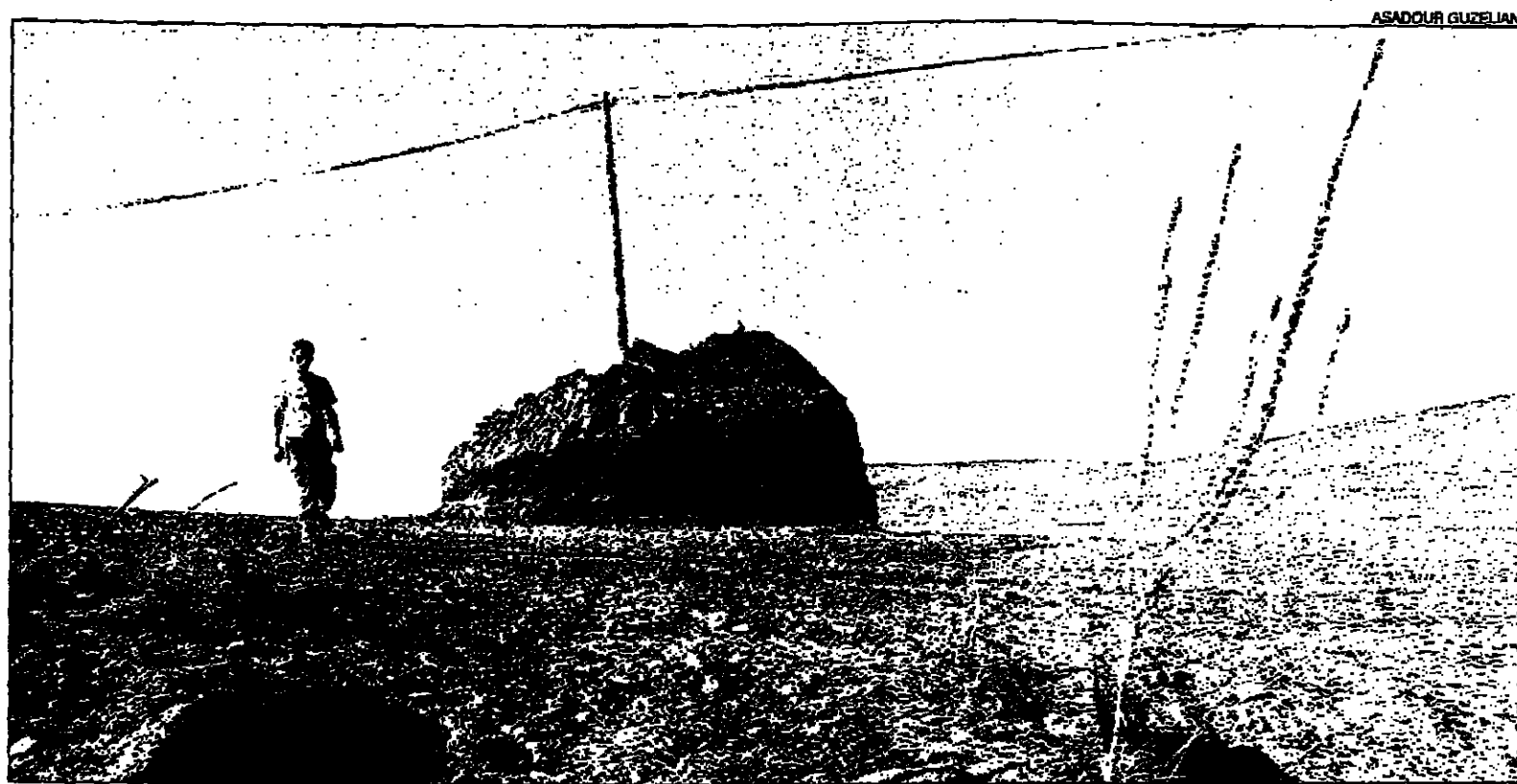




### Little ringed plover

**BY PAUL WILKINSON**

"Our policy is to cherish the wildlife on our site and to take whatever steps we can to ensure it continues to flourish."



The site of the Earth Centre. The last pit closed four years ago and conservationists were hoping for a return to the area's former beauty

FROM PHILIP PANGALOS IN ATHENS

The Prince told a conference organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature in Athens that there were 3,300 million hectares of forest remaining — half the area



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## Blair deserves praise for hiring talent from the real world

All the fuss about Tony Blair politicising Whitehall misses the point. The really novel, and striking, feature is how many non-political appointments the Blair Government has made, tapping a pool of experience and talent outside the conventional political world.

Yesterday, for example, Gordon Brown announced the four outside nominations to the Bank of England's new monetary policy committee. None can be described as partisan nominees. They are all both eminent and independent-minded — Professor Charles Goodhart, the leading banking

and finance economist; Dr DeAnne Julius of British Airways; Sir Alan Budd, who will be retiring as the Treasury's Chief Economic Adviser this autumn; and Willem Buiter, a leading international economist. If anything, some are almost too academic, without direct market experience, though this might have created conflicts of interest. These appointees should give credibility to the new monetary arrangements which are formally launched later this week.

Earlier examples including the appointment of Sir David, now Lord, Simon, the former chairman of BP, as Minister for trade policy

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

and the single market. Michael Heseltine brought in several businessmen to advise Whitehall, but the new Government has gone further in seeking non-Whitehall advice via a series of task forces involving outsiders, incidentally at little, or no, cost to the taxpayer. Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays, will chair the task force on resolving the interaction between tax and social benefits, the Schleswig Holstein question of the welfare state. Few would quarrel

with the appointment of Professor George Bain, the principal of the London Business School, to be chairman of the Low Pay Commission which is to be set up to advise on the level at which the national minimum wage should be set.

These appointments are more important than the row about special advisers. The increase in the number of such politically appointed advisers does not yet represent a great change in the working of Whitehall. The number of advisers to ministers is being strictly limited and the expansion in 10 Downing Street has been to increase policy advice, as many

commentators on Whitehall affairs have urged. Indeed, the Government has imposed an entirely unnecessary straitjacket on itself by promising to keep the pay bill for such advisers to the same total as under the Tories. That means that senior advisers (some with experience from the last Labour Government) have had their pay held down.

The only real issue is whether the growth in the number of special advisers interferes with the Whitehall command structure and the impartial advice supplied by civil servants. This was specifically recognised in the Order in Council

on May 3 allowing Mr Blair to appoint three advisers (including Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell) who could give orders to civil servants. The dividing line between politics and the Civil Service is anyway blurred in 10 Downing Street. It has only been since 1928 that the principal private secretary has been a career civil servant, while the chief press secretary has previously been a political appointee or a journalist rather than a civil servant. Mrs Thatcher also had a political chief of staff, David Wolfson, for several years. Moreover, a number of advisers have become politically

committed under a particular Prime Minister and not returned to Civil Service posts.

The Blair premiership has so far involved strong central political direction and co-ordination. But the size of even the enlarged Prime Minister's office is still small by international standards. There are, admittedly, dangers in ministers just listening to an inner circle of politically trusted advisers, but the Blair Government has shown a welcome willingness to look outside to non-partisan businessmen and academics.

PETER RIDDELL

## Labour's low-pay chief acknowledges risk of job losses

BY JILL SHERMAN  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE BAIN, the new head of the Low Pay Commission, risked embarrassing the Government yesterday by conceding that the national minimum wage could lead to job losses.

Professor Bain, appointed yesterday to chair the body that will recommend the level for a statutory minimum wage, also suggested that the loss of some low-paid jobs would be a good thing. "Everyone is agreed that we want to set a rate which will do something for the low paid without costing jobs," he said. "I would be surprised if there were not some job losses, but the question is whether those jobs would be better lost anyway. Anyone who says they know what the impact will be is misleading you because there are so many imponderables."

But Professor Bain, principal of the London Business School, said there was certainly a need for a minimum rate and argued that sanctions should be imposed on firms that refused to pay it.

The Government tried to distance itself from his remarks about probable job losses. Labour spent most of the general election campaign denying that the wage would



Bain: says impact is not predictable

lead to job cuts unless it was set too high.

"The minimum wage will be set at a level that won't cost jobs," one Whitehall source said. Downing Street was more wary, insisting that if the minimum wage was set at the right level job losses were unlikely.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, had welcomed Professor Bain's appointment, saying that he was a respected and independent figure who would command the respect of both employers and employees. Yesterday trade union sources suggested that Professor Bain had been talking as an academic about the possibility of job losses. "Most people accept there will be some effect on jobs," one source said. "But nobody now

accepts the political argument that there will be hundreds of thousands of job losses. Professor Bain was not suggesting that."

Professor Bain suggested that the commission would recommend a level for the minimum wage by April, allowing time for it to be implemented next summer. But he is already under pressure from trade unionists to implement the statutory minimum wage by spring. Unions have called for different levels, most of which are between £4 and £4.50 an hour.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, said he believed that there would be no difficulty in setting a tight timetable. The Commission should recommend a figure by this autumn, giving the Government until Christmas to announce the new rate so that it could come into effect from April 1.

But Ruth Lee, head of the Institute of Directors' policy unit, said that the IoD remained strongly opposed to a minimum wage of £4 an hour and that introducing it by next April seemed hasty. Setting it at £4 was potentially "very destructive" and would be particularly damaging in areas such as retailing and textiles. "It is far too high," she said. "Even if the figure was £3 an hour then a lot of people would be affected."



Senator Mitchell and his co-chairmen in London yesterday after meeting Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam, below left



## Belfast breaks political mould as talks resume

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
CHIEF IRELAND  
CORRESPONDENT

NATIONALISTS took a huge step forward last night when Belfast City Council elected its first Roman Catholic Lord Mayor since Queen Victoria granted the city's Royal Charter in 1888.

Alban Maginness, 46, a Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor in Belfast for 12 years, was elected with the support of Sinn Féin and the Alliance Party. Today he will join other senior SDLP members at the multiparty talks that resume at Stormont after a two-month adjournment.

The talks will be chaired by Senator George Mitchell,

who held his first meeting with Tony Blair yesterday on his way from the United States to Belfast. At a 30-minute meeting in Downing Street they discussed ways of breaking the impasse that held up progress for almost a year.

Sinn Féin, which will be excluded until the IRA declares a ceasefire, will stage a publicity stunt outside the venue, Gerry Adams, the party president, insisted yesterday that Sinn Féin should be allowed to join the talks because of its strong electoral mandate.

His demands went unheeded yesterday after the IRA ended its unofficial ceasefire over the weekend by abandoning a 1,000 lb bomb in

West Belfast. Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, said ministers would review talks that officials are holding with Sinn Féin. He said there was no justification for the bomb, which was clearly targeted at the police and Army.

Belfast's new Lord Mayor last night hailed his victory as a "breaking of the political mould". Mr Maginness, a barrister who is highly respected across the sectarian barriers in Northern Ireland, said one of his main objectives was to create a bond of trust between Protestants and Catholics. Unionists and Nationalists, leading to reconciliation and peace in a city that remained the most divided in Europe.

## Clarke in video bid to boost his appeal

BY ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE, beer-drinking scourge of the Tory image-makers, finally succumbed yesterday when he launched a video appeal to wavering voters in the party leadership contest.

The decision to draft in a film company surprised friends and foes of the former Chancellor, who has refused so far to follow the example of the other five contenders and stage any press conferences.

Constituency activists who received copies of the video yesterday had an even bigger surprise when they played it. Mr Clarke, seen as a political heavyweight in more ways than one, had shed a stone, although his aides attribute that to a punishing general election rather than a desire to look lean for the cameras.

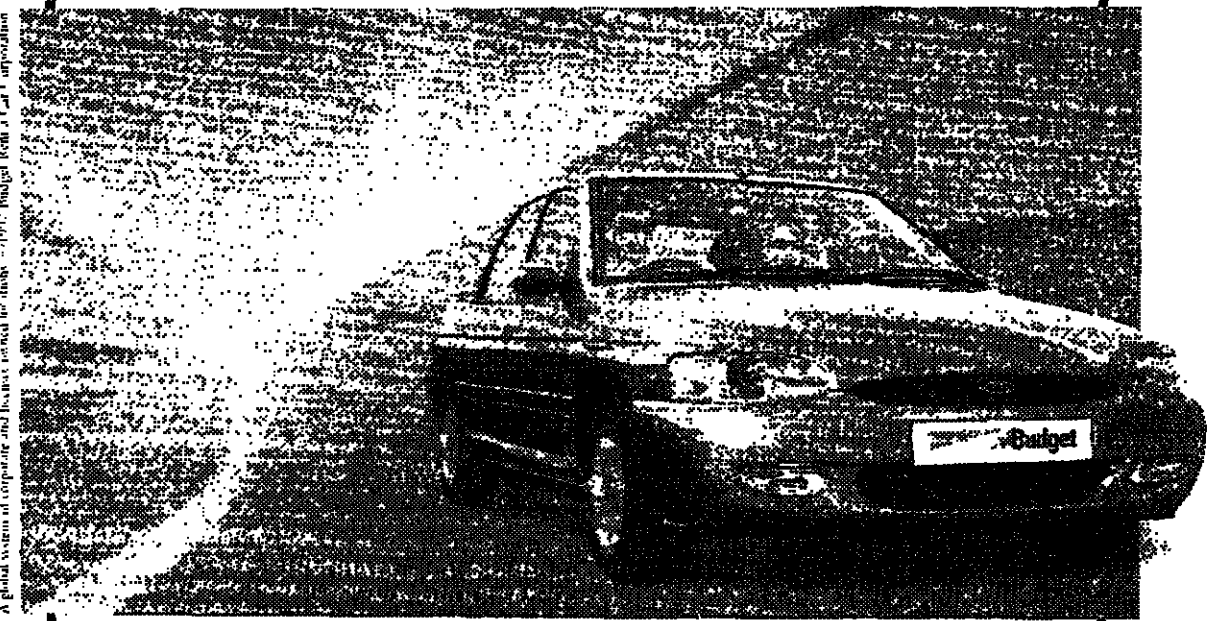
It was not the only dramatic change. The famously rumpled suits have been replaced by smartly pressed pinstripes, his tousled hair has been cut and combed and his trademark Hush Puppies are only briefly on view. But the 12-minute film does show him in a pub, clutching a pint and performing his favourite role as laproom raconteur.

Roddy Gye, managing director of GHA Communications, which made the film, said: "Kenneth Clarke is not the sort for soft focus lighting and bursts of atmospheric music. It is a straightforward film with a simple message: he is the man for the job."

The film shows Mr Clarke in action in the Commons but the most effective clip is from the last party conference when a youthful looking William Hague led the applause for his more senior colleague.

William Hague had a 45-minute meeting with Baroness Thatcher yesterday. The former Prime Minister has declined to back any candidate in the first round but friends say that she may state her choice in the closing stages.

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## Education law being rushed, say Tories

BY POLLY NEWTON

THE Government was accused yesterday of rushing through the abolition of the assisted places scheme without allowing MPs enough time to study details of the plan.

Labour is to phase out the scheme, which pays for children from low-income families to attend private schools, and use the savings to fund its commitment to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 30 by 2002 for pupils aged five, six and seven. The Education (Schools) Bill, which implements the measure, was given a second reading yesterday and will pass through its committee stage and third reading on Thursday.

Tories complained that the Bill had not been available to MPs until after the Commons rose for the Whitsun recess. Eric Forth, a frontbench education spokesman, questioned whether this gave adequate time for MPs to consider it properly and for interested parties outside the Commons to make their comments.

But Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, said that the Tories were simply unable to deal with a Government that kept its election pledges and did so quickly.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, insisted that the assisted places scheme was flawed. Nearly one third of those helped by it had already been at a private school before their application was approved, and more than half came from middle-class backgrounds.

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Sierra Leoneans demonstrate for peace after 20 are killed in dawn seafront bombardment

## Nigerian gunboats shell Freetown coup leaders' base

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FIGHTING swept through Freetown yesterday after Nigerian gunboats opened up a dawn bombardment in an attempt to topple the Sierra Leonean coup leaders.

The shelling killed about 20 people in the Aberdeen seafront district, and terrified residents fled with bundles of possessions on their heads. Witnesses said that several more civilians had been killed in the crossfire between the intervening Nigerian troops, on the one side, and Sierra Leonean soldiers and rebels allied to coup leaders.

Britain expressed alarm at the outbreak of military action, insisting that the coup leaders should be persuaded to step down by negotiation and peaceful means.

The Nigerian bombardment began in the early morning, directed into the western part of the city where the rebel leaders have their headquarters. Witnesses reported an entire family killed by incoming mortar shells. Small-arms fire was also heard in the city. The attack provoked anger from many Sierra Leoneans, including opponents of the coup, and thousands took to the streets, chanting "We want peace."

Troops supporting the rebels surrounded the city's main hotel where Nigerian soldiers were guarding about 75 Britons, 15 Americans and other foreigners seeking refuge from the violence.

Many of the civilians sought shelter in the Mammy Yoko hotel basement, as windows on the first and second floors were shattered by gunfire. "It's a fight for survival," one Nigerian officer said after six Nigerian troops were wounded. After a lull last night, there were hopes that a ceasefire could be negotiated. The Nigerians, part of a West African

peacekeeping force for Liberia that was stationed in Sierra Leone when the coup was staged on May 25, said they had seized control of the airport, north of the capital, after a brief fight with Sierra Leonean troops.

The force from the West African economic co-operation group, Econog, was reinforced by troops from Ghana and Guinea. The rebel troops sent out a helicopter during the day to fire back at the Nigerian gunships moored in the bay.

Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner, has been attempting to persuade the rebel leader, Major Johnny Koromah, to step down and allow the return of President Kabbah, who has fled to Guinea. It was not known where he was last night, but he was thought to be travelling back from Guinea. Yesterday's attack followed the breakdown of talks that went on until late on Sunday night. Major Koromah refused to step down on Sunday, and named a 20-man council, including Foday Sankoh, the leader of the shadowy Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that has been fighting a bush war against the Government since 1991.

Three other RUF members were also appointed to the council. Mr Sankoh is being detained in a hotel in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. His telephone was cut off after he had called on the RUF to fight alongside the rebels.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that all British passport-holders who had asked to leave had been taken out. There were no plans to close the High Commission, but Mr Penfold had advised remaining Britons to stay indoors and keep their heads down.

Tony Lloyd, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, thanked the Americans and French for their help in taking Britons out of Freetown yesterday. In Guinea, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General and a former Foreign Minister of Nigeria, said at the weekend that neighbouring countries had the right to intervene to restore order in Sierra Leone.

Harare: The Organisation of African Unity's annual summit opened here yesterday with statements of firm backing for any action necessary by the countries involved in Freetown to return Sierra Leone to the elected Government to power. President Mugabe of Zimbabwe urged that "democracy be restored as a matter of urgency".

Leading article, page 19



Neimah Duncan, left, is overcome by emotion after arriving at Stansted with other evacuees to be welcomed by her daughter, Soraya

## Tears and tales of terror at family reunions

By LIN JENKINS

MORE than 200 evacuees from the coup in Sierra Leone arrived back in Britain yesterday, including children reunited with their parents after being caught up in fighting.

Among them was Ramatta Conteh, the two-year-old girl found by an American hotel owner in Freetown with her passport in a purse around her neck. Others included missionaries, aid workers, businessmen, students and other children left with relatives in the West African country.

The 230 passengers, 126 from Britain and the Commonwealth, flew into Stansted airport at 5am from Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea, on a Foreign Office-chartered flight.

Ramatta finally met her mother, Isatu, a healthcare assistant at a London hospital, after passing through immigration and being met by Essex social services. She had been staying with her grandmother in Freetown for

**'People have been raped and had guns pointed at their children. It is anarchy'**

the past seven months but was found wandering alone by Roger Crooks on Friday. His fiancée, Vanessa Schil-lach, took Ramatta by helicopter to the USS Kearsage, which delivered her to Guinea. There she was met by a cousin, who flew with her to Stansted.

Other evacuated children told how Freetown descended into chaos around them. Jenovive Chinyere, nine, hid with her sister Rita, 13, and brother Anthony, 15, beneath their home.

"They held guns to us in our neighbour's house," Anthony said. "They said they had been suffering for years and now it was their turn to enjoy. They came to our house and destroyed everything. What they could not take they shot. We hid under the house and they did not know we were there."

The children went to join their mother in south London yesterday while their father remained in Guinea, anxious about the fate of his business in Sierra Leone.

Three-year-old twins Daphne and Desphelia Lewis flew back to Britain with their grandmother. Their father, Desmond, from north-west London, said: "They went to see their grandparents for the first time over eight weeks ago. We were worried sick about them. I'm so relieved to have them back."

Tears and tales of terror accompanied many reunions. Dido Kange trembled as he pulled from his suitcase a bullet-damaged padlock from the gate to his home. "They shot through the padlock. They were shooting between my legs," he said. "One had a rocket-propelled grenade-launcher and I said, 'If you fire that in here we

are all dead'."

His mother-in-law, Neimah Duncan, 55, said: "People have been raped, they have been beaten, and they have had guns pointed at their children. It is complete anarchy. There is no sense to it." She said she feared for her husband, Richard, who has remained to protect the family business.

Eddie Barmin, 65, decided to leave two days after he saw his wife, four children and three grandchildren escape to safety. "I don't think I will go back. In my bedroom there are bullets like nobody's business. My son-in-law was jumping like he was skipping — they kept firing bullets at the floor saying they wanted money."

Edith Mayhew spent the night at the airport after flying from her home in Glasgow, not knowing if her children were on the DC10. It was only when Sammy, 18, and Graham, seven, emerged from the customs hall that she knew they were safe. "I can't believe they're back," she said.

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# US relieved by record reduction in murder

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE murder rate in the United States dropped by a record 11 per cent last year and violent crime overall fell by 7 per cent, the largest drop since the Government first kept statistics 37 years ago.

Preliminary figures issued by the FBI yesterday suggest that for the first time violent crime has fallen below the levels that engulfed America in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The big cities of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston all reported fewer murders in 1996. Among only a few notable exceptions to the trend was Washington where homicides rose by 36, making the city once again eligible for the dubious mantle of US murder capital.

The nationwide figure of 19,224 murders annually remains by far the highest of any Western democracy and the American South, which has a particular culture of violence, reported only a minor decrease of 2 per cent in violent crime.

In contrast, Britain had a relatively low total of 680 murders in 1996, a fall of 8 per cent, while violent crime as a whole rose by 11 per cent over the same period, the biggest increase for seven years. The total number of offences, however, fell by 1.3 per cent in 1996, the fourth consecutive drop.

President Clinton and Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, hailed the new statistics as a direct result of the Administration's anti-crime policies. "The continued downward trend over the past four years is further evidence we are on the right track with increased community policing, tougher penalties and greater juvenile crime prevention," Mr Clinton said.

Experts believe that the unprecedented drop has been caused by several factors, including the growing number of ageing baby-boomers who now account for one-third

of the population. Almost all violent crime is committed by young people. Another important component is thought to have been the apparent truce among drug traffickers over control of the crack cocaine market in America's inner cities. Despite an increase in drug use in the US, gang leaders have brought an end to the years of violent turf wars, marked out their territory and stabilised the market. Drive-by shootings and random killings are no longer an everyday occurrence.

"The maturation of the crack market accounts for a lot of the decrease," said James Fyfe, a criminologist at Washington's Temple University and a former police officer. "A lot of these kids are in jail or have killed each other off already to eliminate the competition. After a few years, strong and cunning people take control."

He said a similar pattern had emerged with alcohol in the 1920s, heroin in the 1960s, and cocaine in the 1980s. Police officials in the big cities believe that tougher federal gun control, combined with zero-tolerance policies for minor infractions, including graffiti, vandalism and petty burglaries have further contributed to the downward trend.

Ms Reno used the announcement of the figures to press Congress to pass Mr Clinton's youth crime Bill, which would provide more prosecutors, allow tougher penalties for gang-related violence and make it harder for teenagers to obtain guns.

James Fox, dean of the college of Northeastern University in Boston, said that the decline may only be temporary as more than 39 million children would reach their teens at the new millennium.

"Crime is down but not out," he said. "They will be teenagers before you can say 'juvenile crime wave', and whether those kids turn to violence depends on us."



Postman's knock: the former Sears Catalogue distribution centre in Kansas City starts to collapse after a controlled explosion of more than a ton of dynamite. An \$84 million (£51 million) processing centre for the US Postal Service will be built on the site

## Canada poll dominated by Quebec

By TOM RHODES

CANADA went to the polls yesterday in an election overshadowed by national unity, the single issue which threatens to undermine the next government.

While polls were predicting victory for the Liberal Party of Jean Chretien, the Canadian Prime Minister, the primary concern for the voters was the fight for second place between the divisive forces of the regions.

Mr Chretien, who had called the election a year early to secure a further mandate for his management of the economy, saw the campaign deteriorate into mud-slinging over whether the mainly French-speaking Quebec would stay in the federation.

The question of independence for Quebec was not even on the ballot but the result today is expected to leave Canada a fractured and balkanised shadow of its former self.

Mr Chretien was predicted to maintain a slim majority, or possibly even a minority of the 301 seats, while the populist Reform Party in the west seemed set to become the Opposition.

## Iraqi arms official to visit Britain

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THREE top Iraqi officials, including a representative from President Saddam Hussein's war machine — at the heart of the arms-to-Iraq scandal — are due to visit Britain to begin talks on granting oil concessions to a British company.

Iraqi opposition groups yesterday denounced the visit, and urged all governments to stick by the sanctions agreement and not negotiate with Saddam.

The three men include Dr Takriti, one of the top officials of the oil ministry. Visas for the group — the most senior to visit Britain since the Gulf War — were granted by the British Embassy in Amman. They are understood to be seeking

to offer sole concessions to Perenco for the development of the Nassiriya oil field in southern Iraq. The company had no one available to comment yesterday.

The delegation includes representatives from the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Industry and the Military Industrialisation Organisation (MIO). The Iraqi National Congress, representing Iraqi opposition groups in Britain, said yesterday it was "particularly ominous" that officials from the MIO — the agency that developed the Iraqi arms industry — should be involved.

In December the United Nations allowed Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil for food, medicine and humanitarian needs, but foreign companies were still banned from direct investment in Iraq's

oil industry. When Security Council resolution 986 was passed, Western companies scrambled to secure future contracts at the lucrative rates being offered by Iraq, and the Department of Trade and Industry lifted a ban on negotiations for post-sanctions contracts.

The arrival of the top Iraqis is embarrassing to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who insisted when Labour came to office that the Government would take a firmer line on human rights.

□ New York: Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, yesterday recommended a six-month extension of the \$2 billion "oil-for-food" deal when it expires on June 7 (James Bone writes). The Security Council is expected to approve the arrangement.

## Wartime role model dies

Clarksville, Indiana: Rose Will Monroe, right, whose high-profile role as "Rosie the Riveter" in promotional films and on posters pushed women to take jobs during the Second World War, has died aged 77.

Ms Monroe, who died Saturday, was working as a riveter building military airplanes in Ypsilanti, Michigan, when she was asked to star in a promotional film about the war effort. The role became synonymous with thousands of women who took defence industry jobs. (AP)



## Russian soldier kills ten peacekeepers

Moscow: A sergeant shot dead ten fellow soldiers serving in a peacekeeping battalion, the second such army incident in less than three days, the Russian military said yesterday (Richard Beeston writes). Among the dead was the commanding officer of the platoon.

The unit, based in the disputed region of Abkhazia, was resting when Sergeant Artur Vaganov, 20, opened fire. Vaganov later shot himself. If the attack had been an

isolated incident, the authorities could have blamed it on the mental state of one individual. But the shooting was the latest in a series.

At the weekend, authorities in Siberia said they had arrested Yevgeni Gorbunov, 20, a conscript accused of killing five fellow soldiers in a shooting at his barracks near Chita on Friday. Last year, military prosecutors investigating 2,117 deaths in the armed forces concluded that about half were murders.

## Church is guilty of race bias

New York: The United Methodist Church has been ordered to pay \$180,000 (£110,000) in damages for racial discrimination against a white minister after it failed to interview him for a "blacks-only" job (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

An all-black jury in Baltimore, the most black city on America's East Coast, found for John Shirkey, 60, who sued the church in 1993. Mr Shirkey, who has spent most of his pastoral career working in the impoverished black areas of Baltimore and Washington, applied for the post of community organiser, but was told that the job was reserved for blacks and "indigenous people". Whites, he was told, need not apply. The church is to appeal.

## ANC challenged

Johannesburg: South African trade union leaders claimed that more than two million workers joined their nationwide strike against new labour laws (Inigo Gilmore writes). The success of the protest, including a march here, underscored the widening rift between Labour and its allies in the African National Congress Government by threatening rolling mass action to highlight grievances.

## Failed dream

New York: The American Dream of Elhajo Malik Dieye, 30, a penniless Senegalese immigrant, ended abruptly when he jumped from the Statue of Liberty in front of tourists (James Bone writes). Officials said it was the first suicide in memory at the statue that promises to welcome "your poor huddled masses" to American shores.

## Senna tyres 'low'

Rome: Damon Hill, the world motor racing champion, said he did not believe the Williams team was responsible for the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in 1994 (Richard Owen writes). Senna made two unusual "corrections" before the crash on the Tamborello bend, possibly due to a fall in tyre pressure, he told the manslaughter trial in Imola.

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CHANGING TIME



# Netanyahu attacks media over wife's row with minister

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, fumed at the media yesterday as a fresh report emerged of his third wife Sara's domineering behaviour.

The latest row, after her much-publicised disputes last year with her nannies, surfaced as a new book reported an alleged telephone conversation last year between Mrs Netanyahu and Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister who is the only woman in the right-wing Cabinet.

According to excerpts from the book, *Netanyahu - the Road to Power*, by local journalists Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir, Mrs Netanyahu refused Ms Livnat's request to speak to "Bibi", the nickname by which the Prime Minister is popularly known, when she phoned her home.

The authors claim that Mrs Netanyahu, a former air hostess, suspected her husband of having an affair with Ms Livnat. Before their conversation degenerated into a shouting match, the call allegedly went as follows.

Livnat: "Good evening, can I speak to Bibi?"

Mrs Netanyahu: "Bibi's here, but he won't speak to you."

Livnat: "Excuse me?"

Mrs Netanyahu: "It's Friday night. Please do not call here at this time. Bibi is with

the children. You call here all the time and it is very disturbing."

Livnat: "That's not true. I almost never call at this time, and, in any case, Bibi asked me to call."

Mrs Netanyahu: "I have already told Yvet Lieberman [Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office] to tell you not to phone here any more. I can't understand why you are being stubborn."

Livnat: "Tell me what this behaviour of yours is all about. You are talking about nonsense, imaginary things. You disturb our work, and I am asking you to apologise and let me speak to Bibi."

Mrs Netanyahu: "That's out of the question."

Livnat: "You're really crazy."

Now I believe everything I have heard about you."

The book also alleges that, during last year's election, Mr Netanyahu's aides tried to conceal from his wife that he had decided to appoint Ms Livnat to the Cabinet, and had disseminated two lists of ministers, one true and one fabricated. Asked about it, Shai Bazak, the Prime Minister's spokesman, said: "I do not want to respond to gossip."

Yesterday, Mr Netanyahu was asked by Israeli army radio for his reaction to the latest unflattering reports about his wife. "If you ask me if I am angry, very much so. If you ask me if I am steaming, I am steaming. It has to stop now," he declared.

Asked if his wife interfered in his political life, Mr Netanyahu, 47, said: "Not at all. They took a minor event and blew it out of all proportion."

Israeli journalists maintain it is fair to comment on Mrs Netanyahu's actions because it was the Prime Minister who put her in the spotlight before and after his victory. Embracing the wife he publicly admitted cheating on, Mr Netanyahu sought to show he had put his own house in order.

Mrs Netanyahu is also a target for criticism because she has broken with tradition and accompanies her husband on most of his foreign trips.



Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu celebrate Likud's election victory. It was he who put her in the spotlight

## Israel to act over land agent killings

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of involvement in the recent killings of three Palestinians who sold land to Jews, and warned that "operational steps" had been taken to combat any further attacks.

Three Arab land dealers have been killed since the Palestinian Authority announced the death penalty for the sale of land to Jews. A fourth has disappeared and is presumed murdered.

"Senior officials of the Palestinian

Authority openly encouraged these murders," Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, claimed yesterday as he called an emergency meeting of his security chiefs. "This is simply standing the peace process on its head."

In a communiqué put out after the emergency meeting, the Israeli Government said that it would issue warrants for those suspected of involvement in the killings and take additional steps to prevent further "attempts at kidnapping and murder."

The Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz* revealed

that Israel's defence establishment had obtained a secret "hit list" of 16 Palestinian land dealers whom the Palestinian authorities had ordered killed. The authenticity of the list was reinforced because it contained the names of three of those already murdered since the new order against selling land to Jews was made.

□ Berlin: The Berlin Opera yesterday soaked one of its double-bass players after he signed a Tel Aviv hotel bill in the name of Adolf Hitler "as a joke" while on a tour of Israel. (Reuters)

## £3bn rail link gives Danes a short cut

FROM CHRISTOPHER POLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S 150-year-old dream of a fixed link between its east and west has become reality. Queen Margrethe has inaugurated the "Great Belt" rail tunnel and bridge connecting the eastern island of Zealand, on which Copenhagen stands, and the central island of Funen.

The moves, in effect, join the Danish capital to the European mainland as road and rail bridges have long run from Funen to the Jutland peninsula. The five million Danish population is divided almost 50-50 by the 11-mile-wide Great Belt.

Denmark's most ambitious public works engineering scheme, the link has cost almost £3 billion. Work began in 1983 but completion was delayed for three years by technical problems, accidents and a legal dispute over tendering.

The construction ends 114 years of train ferries, and cuts a crossing time of more than an hour to seven minutes.

The new link, operated by the state-owned DSB railway, consists of two five-mile tunnel tubes from Zealand to the Islet of Sprogø, where trains surface to join a six-mile combined rail and road bridge spanning the western section.

The project will be completed next June when a suspension bridge now being built between Sprogø and Zealand is ready for road traffic.

## Pharaohs' museum hopes to shelter reigning cats and dogs

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

EUROPEAN and American pet food companies are to be approached on financing a new room dedicated to mummified pets and other animals from the time of the Pharaohs in the Cairo Museum.

"Pets were very common," said Salima Ikram, the Egyptologist leading the drive to open the room to house 150 mummified cats, crocodiles,

dogs, fish, snakes and baboons. The animals were mostly offerings to the gods.

The cash-strapped museum, home to the treasures of Tutankhamun, has accepted the idea but has ruled that Ms Ikram will have to raise the £125,000 cost from private donations. She has lectured in Egypt and America in her attempt to find funds.

Tomb carvings show how the ancient Egyptians immo-

rtalised not only sacred animals, but also pets. In one, Prince Tutankhamun's cat Mit sits before a table piled high with loaves, a duck and a few beef ribs.

In another, the nobleman Ptahmosis holds the wooden sceptres of office while a monkey tethers beneath his chair kicks up a foot in delight and plucks a grape from a bunch it is holding.

Ms Ikram, whose enthusiasm is expected to attract worldwide attention and whose project could help to boost tourism at a time when Islamic terrorism in Cairo is on the wane, said that ancient Egypt was "an economically stable society that could afford to have pets".

Noblemen raised cats, monkeys and dogs, while Pharaohs kept hunting dogs and lions, with which they are sometimes pictured in hunting scenes. "We do not have cuddly Pharaohs," Ms Ikram added. "We have Pharaohs smiling and hunting."



A tomb painting depicting hunting on the marshes

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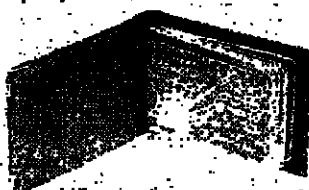
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How Chirac's European partners will respond to his failed election gamble and Juppé's premature exit

# Nervous Bonn strives to keep euro on track

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

GERMANY urged the new French Government to reject any idea of stretching or bending the entry criteria for European economic and monetary union (EMU) and to work together with Bonn to ensure that the euro project starts on time.

The plea came as the rise of the Socialists to power in France clouded the Franco-German partnership which is the driving force behind a more integrated Europe.

The nervousness of the German authorities was expressed yesterday by Karl Lamers, the foreign policy spokesman for the Christian Democrats and a key European strategist for Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. "The future of European policy currently depends on the German-French tandem," he said. "Over the next weeks and months the most critical issue will be monetary union, which is entering its most sensitive preparatory phase. The market cannot be given the impression that the entry criteria are not taken as seriously as before."

Herr Kohl will press this point when Lionel Jospin, the new French Prime Minister, visits Bonn, perhaps this week, shortly before Tony Blair, the Prime Minister.

## GERMANY

visits Germany on Friday. Herr Lamers was speaking for the German leader when he said: "The convergence criteria are not mathematics but rather psychology and, as such, they should be treated with sensitivity. Germany must set a good example."

The Kohl team has always got on well with French Socialists. The Franco-German partnership of the 1980s and 1990s was built up with the late Socialist President, François

Chirac, is how soft the new European currency will be, given M Jospin's support for a flexible interpretation of the EMU criteria.

The budget strains in Germany and the leftward lurch in France could trigger a crisis in relations. Bonn blundered when it wanted the Bundesbank to revalue national gold reserves to solve some of its problems with public debt and enable it to qualify for EMU. The bank opposes such a move. A compromise is likely to be worked out between Bonn and Frank-

ria so the German Government will become harder. Both sides regard their respective courses as the minimum to appease their suspicious electorate. There is no obvious exit from this dilemma apart from delaying the start of monetary union. But Herr Lamers issued a warning yesterday against entertaining that thought, too. "It would not be at all helpful. It could even be dangerous to revive the postponement debate."

Two other dangers were identified by the German political class yesterday. Michael Glos, of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, spotted problems with Communist participation in the new French Government. "The French Left will be reliant on the support of the Communists, who question further integration in Europe."

The other fear concerns President Chirac. The influential newspaper *General-Anzeiger* said: "An uncertain leader who wants to make up for a mistake has to be handled with caution."

"Chirac will try to talk with Kohl about changing the criteria for the stability package and for joining the euro club." Under the circumstances, it said, it would be safer to delay EMU.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## The future of European policy currently depends on the German-French tandem

Mitterrand, and Jacques Delors, a Socialist President of the European Commission. Herr Lamers still visits M Delors and Bonn is considering various French ideas for an "economic government" to balance the monetary control to be exercised by the future European Central Bank.

There is confidence that the French Government has the political will to stay on course for the euro. The open question, however, discussed at length in a telephone call between Herr Kohl and Pres-

ident Chirac, is how soft the new European currency will be, given M Jospin's support for a flexible interpretation of the EMU criteria.

The Kohl team has always got on well with French Socialists. The Franco-German partnership of the 1980s and 1990s was built up with the late Socialist President, François

# Social Democrats flex their muscles

BY ROGER BOYES

GERMANY'S Social Democrat Opposition, encouraged by the wave of success for left-wing European parties, yesterday flexed its muscles and launched a no-confidence motion against Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. If he loses the vote, which will probably be held tomorrow, the Helmut Kohl Government could crumble.

"We are entering the end phase of the Kohl era," Joschka Fischer, the Green leader, said after joining the Social Democrats in their initiative to unseat Herr Waigel. Their chances of success are limited since the Chancellor will almost certainly throw his weight behind his embattled minister and, despite disgruntlement in government ranks, few deputies want to risk an early

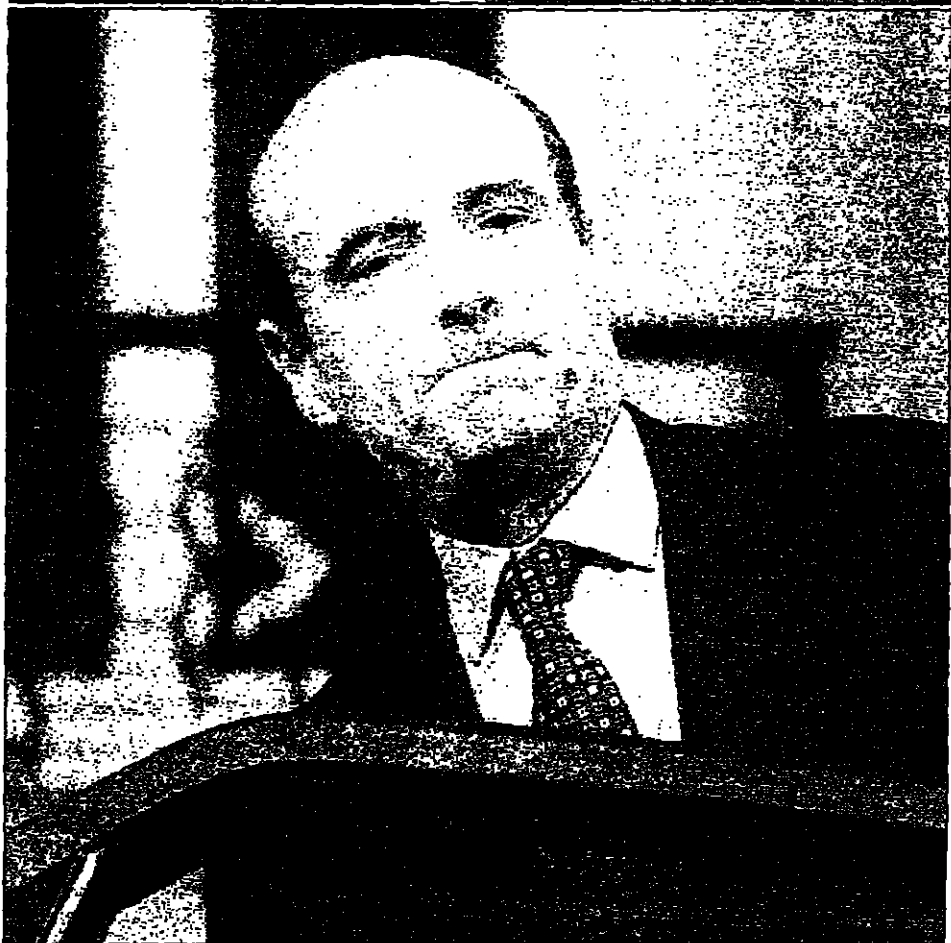
election. "If Herr Waigel goes, then the Chancellor goes too and all the rest of them," Herr Fischer said with glee.

The pressure for change in Germany is two-fold. First the victory of Lionel Jospin — more even than the success of Britain's new Labour — is a clear sign to both Social Democrats and Greens that months of welfare cuts and high unemployment are turning the popular tide against even such firmly anchored leaders as Herr Kohl. Second, the Chancellor has lost his ability to choreograph daily politics or ride effortlessly through crises: the government coalition argued without result about how to plug the budget deficit until the early hours of Monday morning. The parties will try again

today. The exhaustion of the Government, the failure to open and steer public debate about Europe and, above all, the difficulty in translating higher growth into higher employment, have sparked the recovery of the Left in Europe. Social Democrats rule or help to rule, in all the important European countries apart from Germany and Spain. German Social Democrats have been trailing European capitals in search of a magic formula for reforming the welfare state while boosting their election chances.

A Socialist International session in Sweden on Thursday — a day before Tony Blair makes his first prime ministerial visit to Bonn — will try to draw some general principles. The first is plainly that Socialist parties have to adapt to the market, abandon class rhetoric and seek out the centre ground.

## KOHL'S RIVALS



President Chirac, top, now has the headache of "cohabitation" after the Socialist win, which forced the resignation of Alain Juppé, above, his Prime Minister

## Rome to seek allies for EMU delay

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

ITALY will today seek to establish whether Britain might support a year's delay on the single currency timetable "in the light of developments in France and Germany", diplomats said yesterday.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, meets Lamberto Dini, his Italian counterpart, in Rome today to "renew fences" after French and German policies on economic and monetary union have been thrown into disarray. Italy, where the centre-left Government took office a year ago, yesterday welcomed the French Socialist election victory, noting that Britain, Italy and France now all have administrations of the Left.

"Lionel Jospin has given strong signals that he wants Italy to be able to join the single currency, and the German row over revaluing gold reserves shows that we all have trouble meeting the Maastricht EMU criteria," one Italian official said. *La Repubblica* noted that, while the Paris-Bonn dialogue would now become more difficult,

## ITALY

lines of communication between London, Paris and Rome would be easier.

The Government of Professor Romano Prodi fears being left behind in the race to qualify for the single currency, and is clearly relieved at signs that the criteria might now be relaxed or judged. It has made a determined effort to meet the criteria by raising taxes and cutting the budget deficit. It has been deeply angered by suggestions in Bonn and Brussels that a reluctance to reduce pensions and welfare spending means Italy will still fail to qualify for EMU in 1999.

Rome looked to Britain's Government for support, and was stung when Mr Cook appeared to ignore Italian aspirations, remarking that Britain, France and Germany were Europe's "Big Three". The two discussed this "misunderstanding" at the Noordwijk summit last month.

Signor Dini said yesterday that, while it was desirable to stick to the timetable, he had repeatedly argued that a year's delay would help everybody. Events in France and Germany have proved him right, he said. But *La Stampa* said German and French difficulties should not be used to delay social spending cuts in Italy.

## EU ponders effect on treaty talks

Luxembourg. Anxiety and some optimism coloured the reaction of European governments yesterday as they absorbed the advent of a full-blown Socialist Administration in France two weeks before the negotiation of a revised Maastricht treaty (Charles Bremner writes).

At a Luxembourg session of European Union foreign min-

isters, the election of Lionel Jospin's left-wing bloc was deemed a source of uncertainty but also by some as a boost to fulfilling the EU's desire since Maastricht to end its divorce from its people.

Ministers played down the prospects of any upheaval in France's relations with Germany and Europe, despite the voters' demonstration of their

distaste for the Gaullists' Maastricht-inspired austerity drive. However, M Jospin's party, with its centralising doctrines, is deemed old-fashioned by many of its European Socialist partners. The Socialist branch of the Dutch and Italian coalitions, for example, have more in common with new Labour than the French party.

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# Primeval Labour swept into power by red tide of antediluvian politics

The hammer and sickle, now unavailable further east, was flying over the Boulevard Saint-Germain early yesterday and red flags marched to the banging of dublin lads.

The *Internationale* and the words *rouge du sang de l'ouvrier* (the red blood of the workers) boomed in snatches from the ecstatic crowd. Why, comrades, you could almost have been back in the roaring revolutionary Twenties, or perhaps on the barriers in 1968. But 1997? Most unlikely.



France is a modern country except for its primordial political parties, Kate Muir writes from Paris

Yet here we were, interlopers from the land of new Labour, watching the revival of Primeval Labour, the French Socialist Party and its Communist Party allies. Until this moment when the pink tide swept across the

election pie charts, most observers considered France a modern country where you could buy small electronic gadgets, wine futures and Renault Twingos. But although it is socially and culturally modern, politically,

it is antediluvian. Those of us who live here already know this. Like the Parisians, we celebrated as offers of milk and honey replaced the austerity measures promised by the Right. We hummed along to the Communist youth anthem, *La jeune garde*, as we arrived at work. We toasted the new or, more like, *ancien* regime. As foreigners, we can luxuriate for a few years, cradled by one of the most lavish welfare states in the world, and then leave long before the crash.

The Socialists will protect all that we hold dear, from the superb state education system, to a health service without waiting lists, and public transport symbolised by the marvellous TGV.

But they will also protect all that we hold dearer: excessive thalassotherapy (warm seawater spas), shiatsu massage and haute cuisine free on the NHS.

Small trains will still run on single gauge tracks

through exquisite countryside, carrying one passenger every six months. More workers will win their demands to retire at 50 on a full pension, as shortening the working week is another Primeval Labour promise. Passengers will continue to avoid booking on Air France, which will remain in the (financial) red and strike regularly.

How the Socialists will finance their promises is most unclear. An election slogan such as "It's the economy, stupid", would be

anathema here. It must be said that Lionel Jospin, the new Prime Minister, does not inspire the adjective charismatic.

On election night, the television stations desperately tried to make biographical films. These were endless shots of people politely clapping as M Jospin rose, Major-like in a grey suit and grey hair, to give dreary speeches. The most exciting clip of his life was when he dithered over a

white or an organic brown sawdusty loaf at the local greenmarket and plumped for the politically correct option.

Clearly a spin doctor, or perhaps his wife, told him to change his thick brown-framed spectacles for see-through frames, a move which has rendered him almost invisible.

Even fervent Socialist supporters are short on fascinating Jospin moments: "Er," said one hopefully, "he was a boy scout."

## Jospin takes reins with hand tied behind back

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

### POLL TALLY

PRESIDENT CHIRAC yesterday named Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Party leader, as France's new Prime Minister after the crushing victory of the Left in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Final results gave the combined parties of the Left 319 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, but the Socialists and their non-Communist allies fell short of winning an absolute majority, leaving the Communist Party — with 38 seats — holding the balance of power.

Bowing to an election result that has left him critically weakened, M Chirac accepted the resignation of the centre-right Prime Minister, Alain Juppé. M Jospin was summoned to the Elysée Palace two hours later and asked to form a new government. The formal handover of power takes place this morning. M Jospin said yesterday that he would assemble his ministerial team in the next few days. Jacques Delors, the Socialist former President of the European Commission, indicated he would act as a senior adviser.

M Jospin said that his brief meeting with M Chirac had been "excellent", but signs were immediately apparent that the "cohabitation" between the humiliated conservative President and the Socialist-led Government is likely to be testy.

The Communist Party lost no time in flexing its newfound muscle, declaring it was

prepared to join a left-wing administration in principle but was awaiting firm policy commitments from M Jospin.

The Communists, who have been campaigning vigorously against the single currency, have called for swift action on pay, job-creation schemes and an immediate reduction in the working week. "We are working to get certain undertakings from the Socialists," Robert Hue, the party leader, said.

M Chirac's failed election gamble and the difficulties being experienced by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, have led some French observers to predict a radical alteration in Europe's power configuration. "Has their time passed?" *Le Monde* newspaper wondered yesterday. "Time will tell whether a Blair-Jospin partnership is taking the place, in Europe, of the Kohl-Chirac partnership."

Not only has the balance of power within France, and perhaps Europe, been radically altered by the Left's crush-

ing victory, which cut the Centre Right's huge former majority by almost half, but the character of the French parliament has been transformed as well. The Socialist triumph has doubled the number of women MPs — to 62. Just 5 per cent of seats in the last parliament were held by women, the lowest representation in Europe. M Jospin has pledged to appoint women to senior ministerial posts.

As the rest of Europe pondered the fate of economic and monetary union in the wake of the elections, the Socialists repeated their conditions for joining a single currency — including no further austerity measures and the participation of Spain and Italy from the outset.

Seven of the outgoing centre-right Cabinet lost their seats in Sunday night's massacre, including Jacques Toubon, the former Justice Minister, whose fall might best be compared to that of Michael Portillo in Britain.

A strong sense of déjà vu from the British election was also apparent yesterday as

senior figures within the devastated centre-right coalition began jockeying for leadership and blaming each other for the disaster.

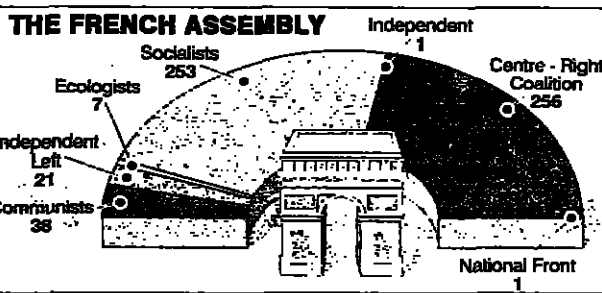
Vulturno d'Estaing, the former President, stating the obvious forcefully, said the President's decision to call an election had been "imprudent". Edouard Balladur, M Chirac's erstwhile presidential rival, called for a complete review of the Centre Right's political organisation.

Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist Eurosceptic who emerged as the last-ditch figure-head for the Centre Right, vowed to fight "for a return to power with all those who share the same conception of France".

In perhaps the most worrying post-election development for the beaten coalition, Bruno Mégret, the deputy leader of the National Front, called for an alliance between his extreme-right party and whatever emerged from what he called the "smouldering ruins" of the Centre Right.

The Front won nearly 15 per cent of the first-round vote and some on the right wing of the shattered coalition may be tempted to take up M Mégret's suggestion, so splitting the Centre Right.

The xenophobic party gained just one seat in parliament, its first since 1988, but it played a crucial spoiling role in the election's outcome by running candidates in the second round in 76 constituencies, 47 of which were won by the Left.



## Marriage of inconvenience for Socialists

Paris: Lionel Jospin needs the skills of an experienced politician in the coming months as he plunges into "cohabitation" with not just one partner but several, all making different demands on his powers and wallet (Ben Macintyre writes).

M Jospin must share power across the political spectrum: on his right he will be trying to work with a conservative President, Jacques Chirac, who will do everything he can to exert his authority

and prove he is not a lame duck; on his left are the Greens and, more importantly, the Communists, holding the balance of power and already setting out the terms of their pre-nuptial contract with the Socialist-led Government.

Despite the shattering failure of his election gambit, the President still wields enormous powers and is expected to focus on foreign policy. M Jospin's Government will broadly steer domestic

and economic policy. But the potential for conflict is enormous. M Jospin will recommend ministers, but M Chirac can reject them and he can make his Prime Minister's life still harder by slowing down legislation. In extremis, the President can demand a referendum on stalled policies and, if the entire system goes into paralysis, M Chirac can invoke the constitution and call another election after a year.

## Left-wing allies head for early ideological clash

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

### COMMUNISTS

LIONEL JOSPIN is likely to find himself locked in a power struggle with Robert Hue, the Communist leader, as he attempts to establish the policy of his Socialist-led Cabinet.

M Jospin cannot govern without Communist support but will want to distance himself from M Hue's hard-left economic policies. The Socialist leader moved away from the Communists during the election campaign as he softened his programme to appeal to the Centre. He modified policy in the following areas:

□ M Jospin said he would only join the single currency if Italy and Spain participated as well; if a European "economic government" was created; and if the Maastricht criteria were "interpreted" rather than respected. Now he says these are only the starting points for a discussion on economic and monetary

union, and insists he will replace the franc by the euro. □ M Jospin promised the swift creation of 700,000 jobs, half in the public sector. Today, he says this will be achieved progressively.

□ A commitment to raise salaries and reduce the working week from 39 to 35 hours has been transformed into a proposal to talk about these measures at a "national employment conference". □ M Jospin says he will bring down the VAT rate of 20.6 per cent on some essentials, maintain income tax at current levels and raise the wealth tax. He says he will not increase payroll taxes or public spending. But M Jospin will also order the sort of "audit" on public finances that previous governments have used to escape from manifesto commitments.

□ The Socialists have promised to halt France's privatisation programme. Privately, he hints that some sell-offs may go ahead.

M Hue, whose deputies enjoy a pivotal role in the National Assembly, will press the Socialists to implement radical policies. The Communists gave a taste of a power-struggle ahead yesterday when they said they would only accept Cabinet posts if M Jospin increased the minimum wage, reduced taxes for the low paid and raised the wealth tax.

M Hue, opposed to Maastricht, will also put pressure on the Government to turn its back on austerity necessary for EMU.



Hue: will press for a radical programme

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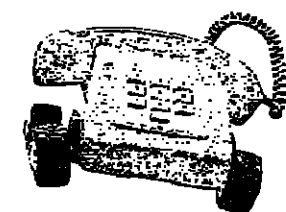
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# Laid low by an energy crisis

A report published last week claimed that one in five schoolchildren suffers from chronic fatigue syndrome, the debilitating illness formerly known as ME. For 18 desperate months, **Candida Scott-Knight** was told she had this incurable condition. Then, six months ago, she learnt that she had *something quite different*, an illness that could be effectively controlled with the right treatment

In January 1995 I was posted to New York to work for the BBC. A few days after my arrival I still couldn't seem to shake off my jet lag and I was suffering from dizzy spells. I visited the BBC's doctor who found nothing wrong with me and sent me home. A week later I went again and this time I was diagnosed with labyrinthitis, an infection of the inner ear. I was put on a course of steroids and told that two days later I would be better. The days came and went but I still had sore throats, migraines, aching limbs and flu-like symptoms. Again I went to see a doctor, who informed me that I had a bad case of the flu.

I knew this wasn't just flu. I'd been ill for nearly three weeks. I decided it was time to get specialist help. I went to see an ophthalmologist, an ear, nose and throat specialist and a neurologist. I went for a CAT scan — a scary experience for which the nurse gave me two shots of Valium to calm me down. After the scan the doctors let me walk out onto the streets of New York, where I frantically paced down the pavement for ten minutes, before I realised I was walking in the wrong direction.

I was scared. I had no idea what was wrong with me. I was frightened by doctors into thinking that I might have multiple sclerosis, a brain tumour or a life-threatening disease. A girlfriend in London suggested that I might have "chronic fatigue syndrome" (CFS) and sent me some cuttings. I read them with dread, realising that I had the same symptoms, and decided that this was what I had. I went to see a CFS specialist who agreed and suggested a mix of daily jabs.

At this point, I decided it was time to go home. Before I left I telephoned an American help group. The founder, a sufferer of 18 years, told me that I would probably never get better.

With this helpful advice, I flew back to England, went immediately to see my local

GP and waited for him to tell me that I didn't have chronic fatigue. The first advice he gave was: "Go to bed for six months." I laughed and then cried before replying that I would seek help from a homoeopath, or a Chinese doctor, to which he quipped: "Don't do that, they'll poison you."

With that I turned to alternative therapy. I tried everything. Chinese doctors, body-centered therapists, massage, homoeopaths, reflexologists, dairy-free diets, wheat-free diets — one doctor thought I had a candida infection. I tried spiritual healers, bio-energy healers, experts in shiatsu and acupuncture. I went to see a professor at one of the top London hospitals. I even went to see a psychiatrist, to shut up the people who were convinced that my illness was psychosomatic. Astonishingly, every one of them assured me that they could get me better — and every one of them failed. I gave up red meat, caffeine, sugar, alcohol, cigarettes and all processed food. I replaced PG Tips with Twig tea. I ate organic fruit

and vegetables, and switched from white pasta to brown. I even tried a daily cocktail of egg whites, wheatgerm and aloe vera, Madonna's elixir of life. I was healthier than most of my friends — except I was ill.

Six months turned into a year, and a year into 18 months. I cried most days, not knowing if I would ever get back to my vibrant, noisy, former self. Some days I failed to get up. One day I couldn't put on my dressing gown, it felt too heavy. My boyfriend often had to carry me up the stairs. When I slowly walked to the shops I looked like an old lady, and would have to rest half-way. I had no energy. My worst dread became watching the seasons change on the tree outside my sitting room window. From blossom to green leaves to orange to no leaves to snow to sun to blossom again.



Candida Scott-Knight lost 18 months of normal life until yet another doctor finally tracked down the cause of her acute lethargy to a malfunction of the thyroid gland

My family were incredibly supportive, as was my boyfriend. Some friends were not so understanding. Some even suggested that I was "just lazy". I hated myself. I felt like a burden. All that I could do was wait, or join a help group. It seems that there is nothing on offer for people with this illness. A friend put me in touch with a friend who'd had CFS for four years and hadn't been able to get out of bed for six months.

After a while, I became depressed and frustrated. I had no idea when I might become well again. I was 24, in my youth, wasting years and behaving like a 90-year-old. I couldn't even read a broadsheet newspaper. I resorted to looking at the pictures in *The Sun*. I believe I can now understand why people commit suicide. To be depressed is

truly to be without hope. Then, in September last year, 30 doctors and alternative therapists later, I went to see a private doctor recommended to me by a friend. Dr David O'Connell took a blood test, examined me and looked at my mountain of paperwork. He told me in his charming Irish accent that I would be better by Easter 1998. I didn't believe him, but six months later, I do.

I have a disease called hypothyroidism. I don't produce enough thyroxine, a hormone that is normally produced by the thyroid gland. It takes about six months for thyroxine to get into your system properly and a bit of trial and error to find the correct dose. In the past two weeks, I have begun to feel much more like my old self. As Sir Richard Bayliss, a consultant endocrinologist who specialises in problems of the thyroid gland, states: "This is not a disease that gets better between bedtime and dinner."

Dr O'Connell looked for three specific physical signs to confirm that I had hypothyroidism, which I will have for the rest of my life. These are: cold, sweaty extremities, puffiness around the eyes and an abnormality in ankle reflexes. Dr O'Connell says that "a large number of people who have been diagnosed with CFS in fact have hypothyroidism", adding that he has treated many patients "who have had years of misery thinking they have had chronic fatigue, when in fact they have had this condition".

My thyroxine levels were tested several times before my first appointment with my new doctor, but, each time the results showed that my levels of the hormone were normal. The results of the blood tests taken by Dr O'Connell showed that levels of another hormone, thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), were elevated, proving that I had undoubted hypothyroidism, even though my thyroxine had been within the normal range.

One of the jobs of the thyroid gland is to control the body's metabolic rate. If you

have a low metabolic rate you put on weight and your body slows down, which is why you feel tired. Nobody really knows why the thyroid gland should suddenly stop functioning properly. One theory is that the antibodies get confused and start to attack the gland — known as Hashimoto's thyroiditis. The other is that it simply wears out, which is why older women are prone to this condition.

Thyroxine is rich in iodine, a mineral essential for health. In the past, it was often found that people who lived far from the sea (a good source of iodine) and ate locally produced food suffered from iodine deficiency, and hence, from hypothyroidism. It is a condition that presents many different symptoms, which means it is hard to distinguish

it from other illnesses. The migraines, lethargy, lack of concentration, intolerance to bright lights and cold, sleepless nights, aching muscles, fainting spells, a flu-like feeling behind the eyes, cold clammy hands and feet, and weight gain are all very similar to the symptoms of CFS.

It seems that even if you have the best doctors, thyroid problems are infamously difficult to diagnose. Boris Yeltsin's heart disease may not be, as is sometimes suggested, the result of too much vodka, but of having been deprived for many years of an adequately functioning thyroid gland. I am not suggesting that everybody who has chronic fatigue has hypothyroidism. But, as I see it, CFS is a huge melting pot for many different

illnesses that cannot yet be explained. It is a convenient label for doctors who find it hard to understand why people suddenly get ill for no obvious reason.

My advice to anybody who is unfortunate enough to have chronic fatigue diagnosed is to treat it with scepticism, keep checking and try every possible route.

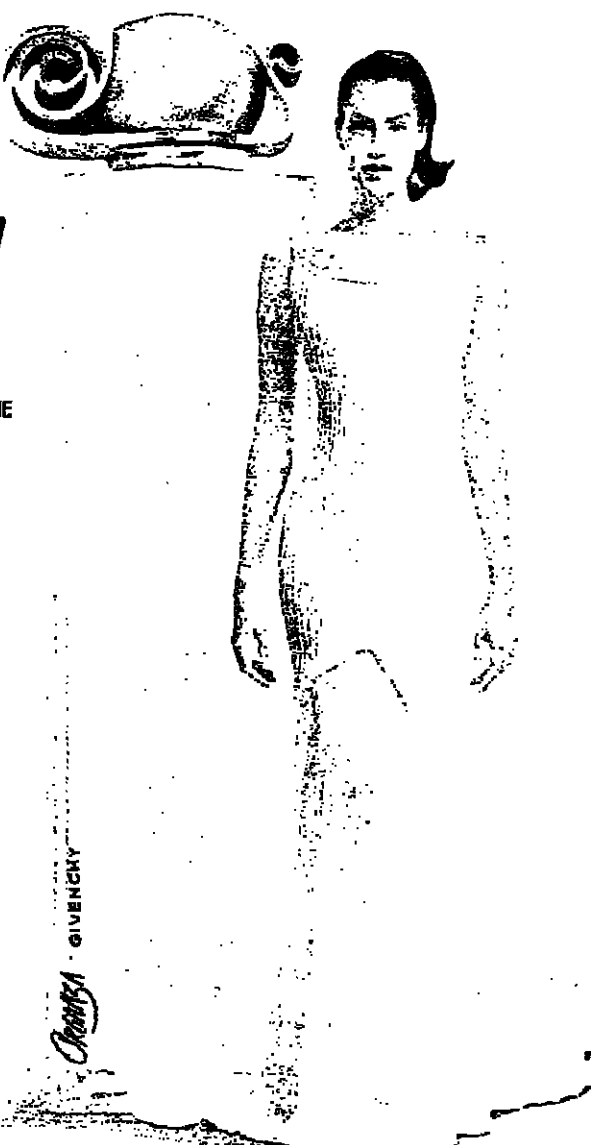
When I was really ill, I didn't realise quite how ill I was. It is only now that I look

back on the past two years and four months, that I see how unwell I was. I can't mind that I was robbed of this time. I can only look forward and enjoy life again. Three months ago I wouldn't have had the energy to write this article. Now, I'm about to start full-time work again and I am planning to do a film course in New York at the end of the year. I can only hope that my particular experience will offer hope to others. In short, don't give up.

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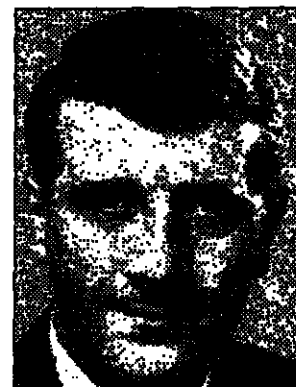
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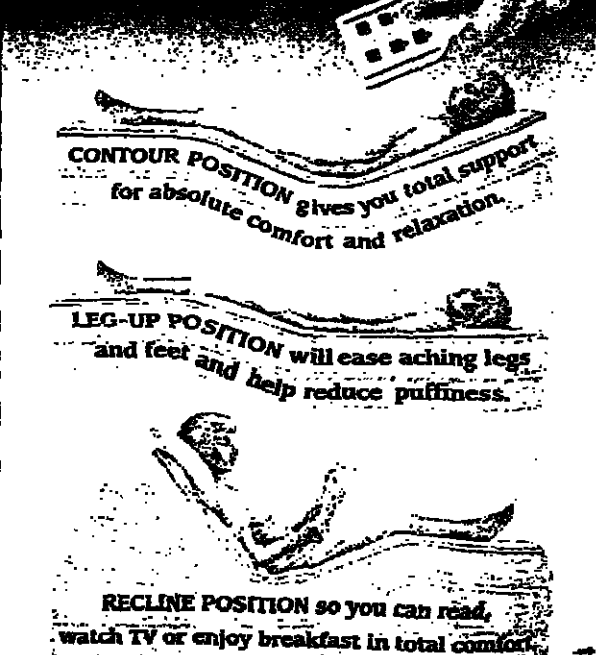
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Tony Goring and Ian Thomas in their London pub, the Townhouse, SE1. They dreamt of a new life as rural landlords but found a distinctly mixed welcome in the Cotswolds

## Dream that turned bitter

Tony Goring, 37, and Ian Thomas, 40, had been BA stewards for 13 and ten years respectively when they decided to pursue their dream of running a pub in the Cotswolds. Tony tells their story.

There was no specific thing that made us decide to move to the country, but when we looked around us, BA seemed to be full of people with great ideas who were still stuck there pushing trolleys. We had both reached an age where, if we didn't do something, we might be stewards at 60.

I had also grown tired of all the American jargon that seemed to be taking over. We would go into the office and on training courses, and people would be talking about "putting things on back burners" and similar nonsense. I thought, "Does no one here speak English any more?"

Having decided to do our own thing, we also wanted to get out of London with all its traffic and hubbub. "Wouldn't it be nice..." we thought. We had an old English sheepdog and we imagined taking it out for walks in the countryside.

Having looked at various pubs, we heard about The Corner Cupboard Inn in a village called Winchcombe. It seemed perfect: a 500-year-old building with original fireplaces, in a beautiful village on the outskirts of Cheltenham in

Running a country pub is a popular downshifting fantasy, but the reality can prove far from idyllic. Grace Bradberry reports



The Corner Cupboard Inn, Winchcombe, proved far from the tourist trail. Putting on live music led to complaints

Gloucestershire. It was nice — it really was — and we thought it would be a tourist trap.

We soon found that not many tourists came through at all. That meant we definitely had a problem. If we'd had a fortune in the bank account, we could have ignored the takings and kept the place as it was, not making much money. But we had to think about the practicalities, which meant coming up with events that would draw people into the pub.

There was a council estate in the village and its residents had very little to do in the evenings. We hired a singer for one night a week and put

on karaoke nights and parties. They loved it. We were invited to their weddings, we knew them all.

We discovered very quickly, though, that there was another group of people who wanted the pub and the village kept the way it was — damned quiet. It was the sort of place where, if you played the car radio, you would hear it all over the village. A lot of people had bought places in Winchcombe so they could come down for

'Soon the complaints started. We found notes under the door'

laughter. We would have put in double-glazing but it was a Grade II listed building, so we couldn't.

The complaints soon started. We would find notes

under the door in the morning, people would come in, or the regulars would tell us that so-and-so had been very angry.

At first I thought "why on earth live near a pub if you don't like noise?" I even said to one or two people that I offered my apologies, but that they must accept that although the pub had been quiet before, now it was busy, and I could hardly ask people to talk more softly. Their response was simply to say: "I expect your pub to be quiet." The whingeing was constant.

The police were called a couple of times, arriving once when we had a steel band playing in the garden. It was

wonderful, with all the children limbo-dancing and everyone else dancing, too. The police asked "Has the music been any louder than this?" We said it hadn't — you can't turn up the volume of a steel drum. They were very understanding and said they couldn't understand what the fuss was about.

On New Year's Eve the police arrived when we were sitting around in our dressing gowns, picking up the remnants of sandwiches from the floor. They were gobsmacked — they had been told we were partying all night.

We lasted for 13 months before deciding we would have to move. I was never under the impression that it would be a bed of roses, but we thought that with work we would be able to turn the place around. We succeeded — but there came a point where we had taken the business as far as it could go, and there was no solution to the noise problem.

The company that owned the pub offered others in the area, but we looked around and found one in The Borough, south London. It was in a terrible state with hardly any customers but the brewery was going to refurbish it, so we knew it had potential. We also knew we could make it lively without fear of complaints from local people.

At our leaving party, a lot of the Winchcombe regulars were in tears. They knew why we were going and some of them were very angry about it. They said it was the first time the pub had been full of life. But we had just had enough of battling with people who wanted a quiet life.

● The second part of The Good Life is on Channel 4 at 9pm on Monday, June 9.

## When sex is overexposed



Magnus Linklater explains why the sexual revolution leaves him a little hot under the collar

I HAVE always lagged a step or two behind the sexual revolution. Recently, however, the gap seems to have widened. I've dropped so far behind that I expect to be lapped any moment now by some sexual athlete coming round for the second time.

It was brought home to me when I booked two tickets to hear Naomi Wolf talking about her new book, *Promiscuities*. It would, I thought, be a stimulating, even an educational, experience. My daughter and I went along together, both of us, I thought, adult, responsible human beings, capable of taking on grown-up subjects such as sexual orientation, the human body and erogenous zones. Within a few minutes, however, I was beginning to wonder whether either of us was grown-up enough.

The programme notes carried the telltale phrase "for adult audiences" — always a giveaway — and, apart from me, there were only four men in the audience. The thought dawned that this might not be suitable material for normal buttoned-up, middle-class males.

Ms Wolf's theme was women and sexual desire. Her main point was that if women are to lead healthier, better-adjusted emotional lives, they need greater frankness when it comes to discussing their bodies, their intimate experiences and the physiology of the male sex. This she proceeded to do in some detail, beginning with a graphic account of the conversations she and her girlfriends used to have about men: more specifically, she recalled their teenage discussions about aspects of the male anatomy and its various functions, as well as a kind of beginner's guide to physical parts that most public talks rarely reach. She then went on to lament the ignorance of men when it comes to certain aspects of female biology. Specifically, she talked at some length about the clitoris.

It was all remarkably relaxed, engaging and full of humour, though I sensed that some of the laughter was a little too hearty. But my reaction was one of deep embarrassment. I felt a ridiculous blush rising until my face had become a bright shade of mulberry: the sweat stood out on my forehead, and my shirt collar, which that morning had seemed to fit quite well, was uncomfortably tight. It was a bedroom discussion made public, and while I could have sauntered out, it meant pushing past a row of women, who would doubtless have muttered: "I wonder what his problem is?" Part of my discomfort may have been

caused by listening in the company of my daughter, but she, too, found the whole affair disconcerting, if not disturbing.

The reason, I think, was that Ms Wolf assumed not just understanding but complicity on the part of her audience. All women, she implied, had been through similar experiences: it was only society's repressive attitudes that had prevented them from acquiring a healthy openness about their sexual inclinations. If we could talk about it freely and honestly, we would all be better adjusted, more mature and, above all, good in bed.

Someone like myself, whose sexual education was mainly acquired in the fevered surroundings of a public school changing room, is hardly the best person to challenge Ms Wolf's view. But I think her argument is wrong, if not damaging. It presumes that all women share a common attitude to sex, and that they develop in similar ways. It presumes that they would relish the opportunity to talk more openly about their private lives but that they are held back only by a hidebound society. It presumes that the complexities of human nature can be simply resolved. It presumes too much. Sexual maturity comes in a wide variety of ways, at different ages and with different effects.

For some people, the progression may be as easy and as natural as Ms Wolf would like it to be. For them, the openness she advocates is already instinctive. They would join in her relaxed badinage with relish. For others, growing up is more complex. The genetic pattern they have been handed, the pressures of family, the social environment in which they make that uneasy progress from childhood to adolescence, all these may create personal barriers that even their friends can only guess at. The open exchange of sexual secrets too early may be not only painful, but threatening. The assumption that everyone else is sexually liberated and that only they are misfits, imprisoned by inhibitions, may increase their sense of inadequacy. They may need help — but not that kind.

There is nothing wrong in arriving late at sexual adulthood. There is nothing wrong in preferring reticence to exposure, or working out one's own private route to maturity. But there is everything wrong with assuming that we are all ready to join in a sexual free-for-all and that we would all be the better for it.



Frank: Naomi Wolf

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# Euro-rascals pay the price of mendacity

Anatole Kaletsky asks: will Kohl's day of reckoning be next?

Democracy is not about electing good governments. It is about getting rid of governments that are incompetent, corrupt or oppressive. That is why Churchill described democracy as the worst political system imaginable, except for all the others. It is why French voters have just elected a left-wing Government with totally incoherent policies and uncharismatic leadership in an electoral turnaround that exceeded even that achieved by Tony Blair.

The people of France did not suddenly fall in love with the same Socialists whom they crushed to a political rump in the general election four years ago, when the combined forces of the Left were reduced to just 87 out of the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

After the contempt shown by the voters for the Socialists four years ago, and the absence of any Blair-like reconstruction of the Socialist Party in the intervening period, it is tempting to explain the French election result simply as a childish Gallic tantrum. Tempting, but wrong.

What the French did on Sunday was very similar to what British voters did a

month before, and what the French did to the Socialists themselves four years ago: they threw out a Government that had proved ineffective, arrogant and dishonest, in favour of an alternative which may or may not prove better, but could hardly be worse.

All over Europe, there is a search for a new way

or French national context — and not as the "price" of keeping some ill-starred "rendezvous with Europe" which most of the voters would rather avoid. The German people may have been willing to tolerate some sacrifice to unify their nation, but the Kohl-Mitterrand-Chirac ideal of "unifying Europe" is one for which the voters do not give a tinker's cuss.

To make matters far worse, there is more than rhetoric and psychology in the contradiction between the "price of Europe" demanded by the politicians and the national economic interests their voters perceive. The fact is that the EMU programme, at least as conceived in the Maastricht treaty, has made it infinitely more painful to undertake the reforms in social and economic policies which France, Germany and the rest need.

By forcing European nations to deflate their economies with high taxes and overvalued exchange rates, the Maastricht conditions have undermined hopes that more competitive markets and lower public spending would create prosperity and jobs. On the contrary, the more France and Germany have reformed their labour markets, the more they have found tight money and high taxes destroying jobs.

It is hardly surprising, then, that people all over Europe are looking for new directions. The rational first step in seeking a new direction is to look at the people who were responsible for the old direction — and throw the rascals out.

their electoral promises, and to preach arrogantly (and falsely) to their voters.

Above all, the EMU process has forced governments to pursue policies detrimental to the interests of their economies, while pretending that these were for the national good. It is not surprising that governments which claim to be pursuing pan-European programmes for economic stability, prosperity and employment are deemed incompetent when their policies produce exactly the opposite results.

In the British context it is worth recalling what people found most incomprehensible and ultimately unforgivable about the economic policies of John Major: the shocking contradiction between the Prime Minister's dire warnings about what would happen if Britain ever broke the monetary bonds with Europe and the benign results of being ejected from the exchange-rate mechanism.

Of course, every government in Europe tells its people that the tough economic decisions being taken in the name of the single currency are for their country's good. But this is exactly their biggest mistake. It is true that France and



THE SWING

Peter Brookes (after Ringuard)

## Keep the Isle Emerald

Irish voters have a rare opportunity to save their fragile rural wilderness

In this dizzying season of general elections, it is Ireland's turn next. The trouble with Irish general elections is that comment on this side of the water invariably turns to the question of how it will affect the peace process to the north of them. But Ireland's leaders will have more domestic matters on their minds: welfare, tax policies, the management of rapid social change and the balance between profit and environment.

Some of those Irish dilemmas should be particularly interesting to Britain, because in many senses Ireland stands now where we stood at the dawn of the 1960s. There is a great expansion, a new confidence, an explosion of building and of consumer spending-power. Dublin and Cork are becoming attractively fashionable places for the young and bold of Europe: inward investment booms. This is not the ancient, picturesque victim land, poor, keeping primitive old Mother Ireland: this is the Celtic Tiger, as they say (though generally, because it is, after all, still Ireland, they say it with a grimace of self-mockery).

Everything is changing, as it did for us decades earlier. Women are flocking out to work, the birthrate falling, religion and traditional morality struggling. The drug problem is growing. Family values are changing, and a gap widening between the generations. Listen to any Irish local radio phone-in and you will eventually hear a tone of scornful bewilderment about modern Irish youth: the voice of a generation that still walked barefoot to school through the fields, said its prayers, ate potato dinners and frankly can't believe how easy young people have it now, and how much they nonetheless complain.

Moreover, the same pressures are growing on the rural far west of Ireland that Cornwall and Devon felt in the decades after the war. Here we have a population newly leisured, besotted with cars and new buildings, and rather careless about planning — because, what the hell, the money will be handy, the builders need the work, and there is a lot of rocky wilderness out there still. There can be few places where it is so beautiful and wild and yet so easy to achieve planning permission for a repulsive skein of misshapen holiday cottages or a vainglorious private hacienda-style rancho-bungalow on a headland.

Our family has known one patch of

West Cork with a fair degree of intimacy since 1963, and seen it prosper. First there was Ireland's entry into the European Union, and the undreamt-of munificence of the common agricultural policy (farmers' cars got newer, and in the big kitchens the hard old wooden settles were replaced by less picturesque sofas, easier on the back). Then there was rising tourism, although the advent of the Troubles gave that a knock, and still deters the timid, especially Americans. Now we have this new growing and prancing of the Celtic Tiger as city wealth seeps

ans should reverse the trend. By and large, Miss ni Chonail's "Ireland for the Irish only" flag will be hard for anybody with a sense of fairness to rally round.

But one part of her message should be noted by other parties in Ireland, and by all countries which contain a beautiful and fragile rural wilderness. It is not just New Age travellers living on Irish welfare who enrage her, but their opposite: wealthy British and Germans who buy property, push up house prices and obstruct the building of practical, cheap housing for local youth.

### Libby Purves

Sounds familiar, does it? It certainly will if you know a Cornish fishing village whose heart is dead because the waterfront fishermen's cottages stand empty nine months of the year, their expensive kitchen fittings and furniture unused, while the actual fishermen have to live on the council estate. It will ring bells if you are a newly married couple in Norfolk dossing with your parents because the cottages your ancestors built are all holiday homes, and retired incomers dominate local planning and refuse to let a housing association build something you can afford. There are Bretons for whom it will be very familiar, and Spaniards, and Highland Scots. There is nothing new in the problem of economic bullying of rural communities by visitors who love the look of the land but not the people on it. Nor about investors who see coastal regions purely as a tourist facility, not as traditional communities to be protected.

What is new is the intriguing possibility that in confident new Ireland, a policy might actually emerge which prevents West Cork and Kerry, Galway and Connemara from becoming as cluttered, bullied, resentful and socially unbalanced as other beautiful places have been. It is as if Cornwall had been a sovereign state able to say a firm "no" to undesirable development. British governments have never grasped this

particular nettle, and we have in consequence a great deal of wrecked coast and some grossly unfair rural house ownership.

Ireland could take all sorts of interesting avoiding action. They could borrow a brilliant idea thrown up by our Labour Party in Opposition (and now apparently forgotten). This was simply that anybody buying a house which would not be fully inhabited all year would need planning permission for change of use. Weekenders could still buy cottages too small or remote for local families, but not roomy houses in the centre of villages, close to the school and the shop. Local democracy could decide.

Or they could even more cunningly and force incomers to renovate old housing stock, by allowing holidaymakers to buy only derelict cottages, those sad, stone ruins which are everywhere in the West as a reminder of the Great Famine and the emigrant ships. Coupled with tight planning regulations, this could painlessly improve the housing situation, as after spending their money the holidaymakers might well get tired of the rain and move on. Come to think of it, Britain could still do much the same with genuinely redundant farm buildings: I am sick and tired of watching holiday homes go up while nice Victorian brick-and-tile structures crumble because the owner has no use for them and the planning committee is so obstructive about conversion.

Or they could fund support for conservation and rural life by adapting the system of "social dividends" which local authorities here impose on big companies ("So build your supermarket, but put a parents' wing on the children's ward while you're at it"). On the same principle, buyers of strictly holiday properties could pay an extra dose of stamp duty, or agree to let the council rent their house all winter to locals for a quarter of the usual rate.

There are all sorts of sneaky ways in which governments, without xenophobic posturing, could prevent harm being done to the countryside and its people by fortunes made in the city. Whoever wins in Ireland should at least acknowledge that there is a problem, and that they have a chance to do better by their far west than we did. What they have — what we once had — is too precious to squander.

## Do Asian values hold water?

Jonathan Mirsky deconstructs a glib phrase beloved of Far Eastern despots

One of the starkest indications that Hong Kong after the handover to China is not going to be the same good old colony merely under the Red Flag, is the regular invocation of "Chinese values" by Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive designated by Beijing to succeed the Governor, Chris Patten. He insists that Hong Kong's future administration and life must be underpinned by Chinese values.

Here is Mr Tung's list: "Trust, love and respect for our family and our elders; integrity, honesty, and loyalty to all; commitment to education; a belief in order and stability; a preference for consultation rather than confrontation." Sometimes he adds "a preference for obligation rather than individual rights". Recently, he added "Asian" values to his list: "Hard work, respect for learning, honesty, openness to new ideas, accountability, self-discipline and self-reliance." Mr Tung sees "North American" values as "freedom of expression, personal freedom, self-reliance, individual rights, hard work, personal achievement, thinking for one's self".

Copying out these two lists I became confused. Each seemed to apply both to modern Asians and Westerners all over this region.

Mr Tung is not alone in his evocation of these values. Who are the other champions of "Asian values"? Largely, authoritarian rulers in Indonesia, Burma, China and Singapore. In Asia's democracies, from India to Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, the phrase is used sparingly. The reason is obvious: those states which fear democracy insist — like Mr Tung — on the need to keep the lid on social disorder by doing two things: they claim their peoples traditionally prefer order and consensus, and they point to the West's lack of moral fibre as a sign that there is no lid at all.

"Stability" is one of Mr Tung's watchwords, although no city in Asia is more placid than Hong Kong. But Mr Tung sees instability far beyond the colony's borders. "As a Chinese man," he says, he finds "intolerable" the notion of Tibetan, Muslim or Taiwanese independence. He is introducing laws for Hong Kong which will forbid advocating or even doing research on such independence. This is to protect China's "national security".

Some Westerners, too, claim that Asians are not interested in or fit for democracy. Money interests them, they say, and a quiet public life; foreigners who confront Asian leaders on human rights make things worse. Members of American and Western chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Beijing rarely say a public word about human rights. But as concepts worthy of serious discussion, Asian or Chinese values fall apart. In the West one may speak — very gingerly — of an amalgam of Greek, Roman, Christian and Jewish concepts. In Asia this is impossible. What binds together the notion of Indian caste with Japanese Shinto, animism in Borneo and New Guinea, or the dozens of cultures (and languages) in the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos? Marriages, funerals, and eating habits — forks, chopsticks, hands — vary broadly. Within China itself, where is the thread from traditional Confucianism to classical Taoism and Buddhism, let alone Islam?

Consensus rather than confrontation? How about the ancient wars between Buddhist sects in Japan and Tibet? Indonesians killed hundreds of thousands of other Indonesians in 1965, allegedly because they were "communists", but really because they were Chinese. Cambodians slaughtered on the same scale in the 1970s because their victims weren't communists. During the Cultural Revolution, in a society said to revere the old and the educated, the old and the educated were killed in large numbers and in Guangxi province even eaten. Family? Some of the great novels of Asia are about family discord.

All the same things can be said about the West. For every "Thou Shalt Not" there is a violation, including religious wars, torture and killing, and the Holocaust. Naturally all such "values", attributed to groups or peoples, have their negative or abusive side. Asians interested only in money? That explains their corruption. How many in Britain, where sleaze is a byword, say when they read of an Asian offering a bribe: "What do you expect? Westerners value individualism? That explains their immodest dress, public vulgarity, and concentration on political prisoners in Third World countries struggling to feed millions of their citizens."

I value distinctions. But not at the cost of "the other". That way lies "national security". The 4th-century BC *Zuo Zhuan*, one of China's basic philosophical texts, says "if he is not of our race, he is sure to have a different mind". Even in modern times the names of "non-Chinese" ethnic groups have been written with complicated characters which included the ideograph for an animal. The Chinese alone, the "real" Chinese, were identified with the simple two-stroke character for human being.

## Scot free

UP IN EDINBURGH, where Andrew Neil sits at the helm of the Barclay Brothers newspaper interests as Editor-in-Chief, there have been lively developments at *The Scotsman*.

Lesley Riddoch, a senior editor, founed out last week after one of her pieces was consigned to the dustbin. She is talking of suing for unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination.

The development has come as an embarrassment to the BBC, for Andrew Neil and Lesley Riddoch are both presenters of the corpora-

tion's late-night show *The Midnight Hour*.

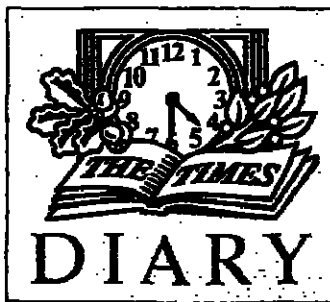
From the south of France, Neil distanced himself from Riddoch's departure. "You must speak to the editor. It's nothing to do with me," he said. Martin Clarke, the Editor recently appointed by Neil, was digging in for a battle: "We do not accept in any way that she was unfairly dismissed."

Riddoch, who edited the paper on International Women's Day, calling it *The Scotswoman*, was unavailable yesterday. But she is said to blame Neil for the change in editorial policy that led to her departure.

She is not to be taken lightly, either. When working on the show in Manchester earlier this year, "Big Les" chanced upon a drunken brawl in a back alley where a man was getting a pasting, curled up in agony on the ground. She sprang to his defence and within seconds, the miscreants were themselves howling with pain.

### Zut alors

FOR HISTORICONS, the French election provided better value than



our own poll on May Day. A public prosecutor is investigating a victorious Socialist candidate's complaint that she was roughed up by the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, on Friday.

Anette Peulvast-Bergeal, who beat Le Pen's daughter Marie-Caroline, accuses Le Pen of having shoved her about, scratched her neck and bruised her while trying to grab the tricolore scarf she was wearing. Her doctor says the incident forced her to take three days off work.

### A dedication

NEW Labour and classical music's strident traditionalists will come together in St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Friday at the world premiere of *A Live Flame*: in memoriam John Smith MP, a con-

cert in honour of the man who might have been Prime Minister. The music is by Keith Burstein, an aggressively self-righteous, rather slushy composer who used to organise bands of hecklers to go about wrecking performances of modern atonal music, particularly anything by Sir Harrison Birtwistle. Friday's concert will be attended by Smith's widow, Baroness Smith of Giltmorehill, and all members of the Cabinet have been invited. Those wanting to stay in with new Labour's groovy friends in modern design, art and music would do

well to make this Burstein gig a one-off.

● The beaming visage of France's new Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in yesterday's papers could not have been more different from his gloomy appearance in the run-up to the poll. He was distraught that the press kept referring to him as "honest Lionel" because he knew that the voters prefer their politicians to be streetwise.

### Dear me

COMPARED with Margot Asquith, the impossibly vain second wife of the Liberal Prime Minister, Narcissus was a self-loathing wimp. Dorothy Parker said of her: "The affair between Margot Asquith and Margot Asquith will live as one of the prettiest love stories in all literature." Now one of her letters is going on sale at Phillips. In one she writes to her literary agent about the sale of her diaries: "In 100 years or less, they will be bought and read by everyone and I have never read anything quite like them."

She adds that she will sell them at a very high price. La belle dame would doubtless be horrified to learn that the letter is expected to fetch only £60.



Egotist: Margot Asquith

● Alan Milburn, MP, the new Minister for Health, has been rapturously welcomed by his civil servants. In Opposition, Milburn had plagued the Department of Health with written questions, forcing hours of extra work on the bureaucrats. When he arrived in his new office, he was shown an enormous file marked "Milburn" and told: "We're so glad you're here. It means no more of your blasted questions."

P.H.S



She's off: Lesley Riddoch



"I wouldn't bother, Arthur. Camelot's not what it was"





## BASTILLE DAY

Europe will reap the whirlwind France has sown

Flush with the victory he never expected, Lionel Jospin yesterday claimed that the British and French elections "raise a magnificent hope in Europe". The Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, picked up the tune, hailing Europe's "return to the roots of the great continental tradition, where the social state is transformed but cannot be swept away". A glance at Western Europe's political landscape would seem to justify their confidence that the post-1989 discomfiture of the European Left is now history. Of the 15 countries in the European Union, 13 are now governed by or with the Left. Only in Germany and Spain are the Socialists in Opposition and in both countries, public patience with fiscal austerity and massive unemployment is fraying.

On closer inspection, this vision of socialism triumphant evaporates. There is a world of difference between the reinvention of the Left which alone made Socialist parties electable in Britain, The Netherlands or, to some extent, Sweden, and the political phenomenon which has once more returned the Left to power in France. What has occurred is a sinister radicalisation of French politics. M. Jospin will move into the Hôtel Matignon today courtesy of two phenomena — the great surge of support for the only European Communist Party that has changed neither its name nor its doctrines, and which with 38 seats is already demanding its kilo of flesh; and the cynical manipulation of the vote by the extreme right-wing National Front, whose supporters in the urban working class engineered the Centre Right's defeat in 47 constituencies.

The singularity of the French election result does not end there. The voters were not even repudiating a Government wedded to free markets and private enterprise, because that was not what they had. Under the Juppé coalition, France was a tax-and-spend state. Tony Blair has far more in common with Baroness Thatcher than he does with President Chirac, who has old Gaullism's fondness for the strong, paternalistic state. In the modernisation stakes, France was already a laggard before it took this giant lunge backward.

But although the French electoral catastrophe lies outside EU political norms, its pivotal position in the Union makes quarantine impossible. This round of cohabitation between President and Government will be war to the death and will create havoc in the Franco-German marriage. Helmut Kohl, whose decision to play fiscal poker with Germany's gold reserves may turn out to be as big a miscalculation as was M. Chirac's electoral gamble, could be about to discover that for the first time he cannot force France back into the Maastricht straitjacket. M. Chirac, who as President still wields considerable power, may be willing; but he cannot compel M. Jospin to forget the Left's rash promises, persevere with belt-tightening and face the resulting street riots.

This completely changes the odds on EMU. The German Chancellor is dead set against any delay, not least because he has no intention of giving Germany's voters the chance to say what they really think about EMU. But Herr Kohl will be in severe domestic trouble if he even appears to meet M. Jospin's demands for a kinder, gentler EMU including Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Because EMU for Herr Kohl is above all a political goal, he might risk that, as he did in 1990 when he defied the Bundesbank over German monetary union. The result could be the worst possible outcome for Europe, and Britain — EMU plus loose fiscal policies in France, Italy and other countries. The new European Central Bank could react, as the Bundesbank did in the early 1990s, by jacking up interest rates. Welcome to the next, protectionist, European Depression.

This underlines, however, that the fate of EMU still rests with Germany, not France — and in Germany, public anger over Herr Kohl's Rhinegold follies is shaking the political terrain. Next week the Bundestag votes on the law that would force through the revaluation of the reserves. For the first time in Herr Kohl's career, the air is thick with mutiny. If defeated, Herr Kohl would find it difficult to refuse the early elections Germany's Socialists are demanding. Tony Blair's victory is beginning to look like the least exciting European event of 1997.

## A QUESTION OF TRUST

Blair should treat his colleagues like adults

"Trust me" was Tony Blair's mantra during the election campaign. But trust is something that the Prime Minister is not too keen to extend to his Cabinet colleagues. He has circulated a memorandum to them, setting down fierce rules of engagement with the media. Pretty well everything they say, write or do will have to be cleared first with Downing Street. In his own handwriting at the bottom, Mr Blair adds: "It is essential we act on this."

The new administration's obsession with control is understandable. It wants to lay two ghosts to rest: the ghost of Labour past, which was fractious and incompetent, and the ghost of Tory past, which for the last five years has been much the same. Mr Blair's colleagues may have found his collegiate style a breath of fresh air, but it encouraged leaks, faction-fighting and departmental inertia. Today's Prime Minister seems determined to avoid a repeat.

But the methods that he wants to use do seem overbearing. Ministers have been told that "it is not possible to start a debate by floating interesting ideas": all such ideas must first be cleared with No 10. Any newspaper article or media appearance must also be passed by Downing Street, which has already set itself up as a conduit even for articles by backbenchers. This is not so much efficient communication as compulsive centralisation.

If this was merely an interim measure, to ensure that new ministers realised how much more effect their words have in Government than in Opposition, then it might be acceptable. But it looks as if Downing Street has become drunk with the success of its communication strategy during the election campaign — and that it

intends to continue to function on an election footing for a full five years.

Co-ordinating policy announcements, so that one department does not steal another's thunder, is a sensible strategy for any administration. All ministers should understand that they are part of a larger team. Treating them, though, as if they are schoolchildren is another matter. The job of, say, Home Secretary is a serious one in its own right; the incumbent is not merely a servant of the Prime Minister. While Cabinet ministers should be expected to be loyal, both to their leader and to each other, they should not be subject to the humiliation of having to log all their lunches with Downing Street and to check with the Prime Minister's press secretary before they dare to cough.

The techniques of Opposition do not translate naturally to Government. Being a minister is as much about doing as saying. And much of the talking is deliberately intended to ignite public debate. "Kneeflying" is an old and honourable method of moving policy ideas into the public domain to test their strength before they are enacted or dropped. If the debate can take place only in Downing Street, then the Government will be working within an unhealthy narrow frame of reference.

Of course, the new edict may not work for long. It may even contain the seeds of its own demise. If ministers are treated like children, they will be tempted to behave like children: bickering, sneaking on each other, and trying not to get caught. Newspapers, meanwhile, are likely to become sullenly mutinous. When Bill Clinton tried this media manipulation, it backfired disastrously. The lesson for Mr Blair is to loosen up before he suffers the same fate.

## BETWEEN TWO EVILS

Sometimes the world needs bad cops as well as good

In Sierra Leone, the Armed Forces of Nigeria, of one of Africa's most appalling military regimes, are now fighting to put down an armed coup in the name of democracy. Nobody else wants the job, and it is in the interests of Sierra Leone's wretched citizens that the Nigerians succeed in restoring their elected President. But gratitude to Nigeria, of all countries, sticks in the world's gullet. Robin Cook's diplomacy of principle faces its first awkward test.

When Major Johnny Koromah was plotting his coup, he probably thought that the presence of Nigerian troops, part of a West African peacekeeping force for neighbouring Liberia, was irrelevant. He counted without the opportunism of General Sani Abacha, who saw an easy way to claim some democratic credit abroad.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has given the Nigerians carte blanche by declaring that neighbouring countries are right to intervene to restore order in Sierra Leone. His concern is that a promising return to democracy — leaving one fewer problem for the Commonwealth to confront at its autumn summit — has been thwarted by a criminal conspiracy. There is no doubt that

this is a choice between two evils. General Abacha is more concerned to teach upstart junior officers a lesson than to uphold the rule of law. At the Harare summit, he has been telling fellow African leaders that Sierra Leone was in too much of a hurry to get back to elected government and thus brought the coup upon itself. The moral he draws is of course that Nigeria too is better off without multi-party elections.

Nigeria's intervention could backfire. The Sierra Leone coup leaders are rallying people to their side against the Nigerians and the token forces from Ghana and Guinea. The Revolutionary United Front, a vicious band of bandits that has terrorised the country for the past six years, is now posing as a patriotic force. Major Koromah appears to be no more than a front-man for the RUF. But if Nigeria fails, Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest countries, would fall under gangster rule. Britain, America and France are telling the rebels that their coup cannot succeed. To reinforce that a weary message, they need Nigeria. That should not prevent them from insisting that since for the Sierra Leone goose goes equally well with the Nigerian gander.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Power of Blair's advisers at No 10

From Sir Brian Barber

Sir, Sue Cameron is shocked by the attendance of Labour Party officials, Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell, alongside civil servants at Peter Mandelson's morning meetings and by their roles in No 10 ("Mandelson and the new mandarins", May 30). She asserts that such "politicisation" will weaken our constitutional checks and balances, guaranteeing an impartial public service, and that any change in this area must have public consent, not be effected by stealth.

Was Ms Cameron equally alarmed by the roles in No 10 and more widely in Whitehall during Mrs Thatcher's regime of Charles Powell — who, like his brother Jonathan, had a Foreign and Commonwealth Office background, but who, unlike Jonathan, was not even the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, as Jonathan is to become; and of Bernard Ingham, who also had a public service background but who was surely no less politically and personally committed to the Prime Minister than Alastair Campbell is likely to be, and who performed at least as political a role?

Even more pertinently, was Ms Cameron not at all troubled by the Thatcher and Major Governments' actions in destroying the structure and principles of a single, unified, permanent public service, independent of political influence, recruited and promoted by a publicly owned and controlled impartial process, with its salaries common to all departments on unified, published and transparent pay scales?

Not one of these essential guarantees of an impartial, independent public service was left intact by the Governments of the past 18 years, and their acts of destruction were certainly committed without the public consent rightly valued by Ms Cameron.

Some of these acts, such as the sale to commercial interests of the public service's recruitment and assessment agency, were pushed through in the teeth of declared opposition (including opposition from Conservative peers and MPs) from both Houses of Parliament, the media, and other elements of informed opinion.

Compared with this wholesale vandalism, the presence at Mr Mandelson's morning meetings of Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell looks like very small beer.

Yours sincerely,  
BRIAN BARBER

(Home Civil Service, 1957-64;  
HM Diplomatic Service, 1965-94),  
10 Melrose Road, SW18,  
June 1.

From Lord Donoughue

Sir, Your Whitehall Editor's statement ("Political make-up of Whitehall increases", report, June 2) that "the Downing Street policy unit is customarily staffed by a mix of career civil servants and political appointees, in roughly half-and-half balance" needs qualification.

When in March 1974 Prime Minister Harold Wilson asked me to establish a new policy unit in No 10, I deliberately composed it of outside policy experts. Between 1976 and 1979 I continued that approach under James Callaghan.

We worked closely and constructively with regular civil servants in No 10 (who saw all our briefs and sometimes made shrewd suggestions for improving them), with those in the Cabinet Office and the rest of Whitehall. But it was my firm view at that time that the policy unit would contribute best to the then Prime Minister if its members shared his political dimension and priorities — and his electoral fate if together we got too much wrong. Its young members later progressed to distinction in several professional fields.

Two subsequent Prime Ministers have run the policy unit differently. That was right, since there is no single fixed mode of operation and the unit's one fixed purpose is to serve the objectives and style of the Prime Minister of the day.

Tony Blair will find the balance of composition which suits him. In today's more inclusive and less partisan climate, he could beneficially choose more widely than was appropriate in the 1970s. But it is important that the policy unit remains distinct and never becomes just another cog in the Whitehall machine.

Mr Blair is certainly right to direct the unit to longer-term policy considerations. My unit was too often totally absorbed in the short-term crises of the day.

Yours,  
BERNARD DONOUGHUE  
(Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister and Head of the Policy Unit, 1974-79),  
House of Lords,  
June 2.

### Smokeless zone

From Mr Derek R. Poole

Sir, In taking political correctness to absurdity, should not only Brunel's cigar be removed from his portrait promoting the village of Neyland (report, May 20) but his stovepipe hat reduced in size and fitted with a solar panel?

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK R. POOLE,  
Down House,  
Far Green, Coaley, Gloucestershire,  
May 29.

### Building new homes in countryside

From Mr Howard Rafael, RIBA

Sir, Since I last lived in England in the early 1960s the proponents of low density suburban living have won the battle against the urbanists. As a result England's housing industry is only able to build dwellings affordable to a private sector mass market by using countryside land.

Proposed developments such as Micheldever Station in Hampshire (report, May 28) use up greenfield land at the ratio of one acre for every four dwellings. At this rate about one million acres of countryside will become suburbanised to accommodate most of England's projected new households over the next 30 years.

New villages, towns and peripheral low density expansion plans focus primarily on one lifestyle, the time spent raising a family. However, the housing spectrum should also accommodate childless young adults and older active empty nesters who could occupy 40 or more dwellings on an acre of land instead of just four.

England's politicians and planners believe it is wrong to encourage high density living. Until they are convinced that large numbers of childless adults of all ages would actually prefer to live in appropriately conceived high-rise environments located in existing urban areas (ideally integrated with mass transit systems and near high streets), both city and countryside will continue to decline.

England's few remaining high density urbanists of influence need to raise their sights and do battle once again.

Yours sincerely,  
H. RAFAEL

36 Maybury Court,  
Marylebone Street, W1,  
May 29.

From Mr Malcolm Peel

Sir, Your report of the plan to build a new town at Micheldever Station throws into stark relief one of the most serious failings in transport policy of successive governments: the dichotomy between decision-making on transport and land use. In fact, the two are sides of the same coin.

The proposed new town would be, as you report, "on the Southampton-London (railway) line", with easy access to the M3. Thus, the traffic it generated could be handled by public transport and the existing road system.

However, a development on the edge of an existing conurbation would impose a new conflicting web of move-

ment. Such flows inevitably increase car dependency, thus requiring enlargement of and changes to road infrastructure and parking facilities throughout the area and beyond. Traffic congestion is increased because of conflicts between new and existing flows.

The arrival of a fresh Government and the uniting (for the second time) of the Departments of Transport and the Environment must provide a desperately needed opportunity to take full account of the crucial interactions between transport and land use. Micheldever Station may be, as you imply, a test case.

Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM PEEL  
(Author, *Making Tracks for the Future — Towards a National Transport Policy*, British Institute of Management, 1992),  
12 Lindsey Close,  
Woodnewton,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
May 28.

From Admiral of the Fleet  
Sir Henry Leach

Sir, Your reports on a new town at Micheldever Station paint a sorry picture.

The direct effects of a project of this magnitude will be felt not just over the intrinsic area of the site but for ten miles in each direction. The result would be the *de facto* joining up of Winchester with Basingstoke, any gaps being legitimately filled by subsequent speculators. Thus the ghastly ribbon-development of the early 1930s would be resuscitated: what a disgraceful start to the 21st century.

Where are the 10,000 or more occupants of this new town to work? Not anywhere close to their homes, since Micheldever is at the heart of prime farmland. Their work will lie in towns some distance away and that distance (countryside in this case) will become increasingly clogged with commuter traffic.

This whole retrograde venture is being pushed by a well-known company. It is to be hoped that the Secretaries of State for Heritage and the Environment will exercise their good sense to stop this shortsighted foolishness before the current machinations have gone too far.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY LEACH,  
Winston Lea,  
Winston, Winchester, Hampshire,  
May 29.

### Unjust stigma of cowardice in war

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Sub-Lieutenant Edwin Dyett, whom you report as having been shot for cowardice when serving in the Royal Naval Division in Flanders in 1916 (May 28; leading article, same day) was, I believe, the model for Henry Penrose in *The Secret Battle* by A. P. Herbert, a fellow officer in that division. It is one of the most moving books I have ever read.

Winston Churchill was so impressed by it that he wrote a foreword to a later edition, in which he called Penrose/Dyett "a gallant soldier borne down by stresses incredible to those who have not endured them and caught in the steel teeth of the military machine". I have never forgotten the stark sentence with which A. P. H. ended his book: "That is the gist of it, that my friend Henry Penrose was shot for cowardice, and he was one of the bravest men I ever knew."

Restitution for Edwin Dyett is long overdue; and for all those others who succumbed to the incredible stresses they were obliged to endure.

Yours etc,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Ashdown House,  
Avebury, Wiltshire,  
May 30.

### Mortgage tax relief

From the President of the RICS

Sir, Contrary to the implication of your report (Business, May 27) there appears to be no difference of view between the Institute of Directors and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on phasing out mortgage tax relief.

The RICS has been calling for the gradual phasing-out of mortgage tax relief for the last decade. The relief is a highly inefficient way of subsidising housing needs and we have long supported replacing both it and housing benefit with a new type of allowance available purely on the basis of need.

What we oppose is the removal of mortgage tax relief in one go, whether with immediate effect or from a future specified date. Such a move would sap confidence, destabilise the market and deal a disproportionate blow to homeowners in the North, where house prices are lower than elsewhere.

The record of sudden government interventions in the housing market has not been a happy one. We do not want to have a rerun of the 1988 debacle when dual mortgage tax relief was abolished, precipitating an unsustainable boom.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY BAYLISS,  
President,  
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,  
12 Great George Street, SW1,  
May 28.

### Oxford business school

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Warden of Green College, Oxford

Sir, Today's announcement about the Oxford business school is excellent news. The proposed site, now an eyesore, should eventually become the place of a building which will adorn the university and city of Oxford alike.

Now that the proposals for the Said Business School Foundation have been published the concerns referred to in your report (May 30) can be seen to be unfounded.

There is no threat to academic freedom. The foundation will have no involvement in the academic direction or day-to-day management of the school. The foundation trustees as a whole (four appointed by Waffa Said, four by the university and two chosen from outside) will need to approve the appointment of a director.

The university will make a recommendation to the trustees, whose priority will be to ensure that a candidate has the international standing required to match the university's ambitions for the school.

Yours sincerely,  
CRISPIN TICKELL,  
Warden, Green College,  
Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HG,  
May 30.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

### Trees to mark the next millennium

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, Many children and adults living in cities are remarkably ignorant about trees. A suitable millennium project (letter, May 27) to counter this ignorance would be an "A to Z" avenue of the most common trees, in an urban park or on a site readily accessible from a city, with each tree in the alphabetical order of its common name (with variants going off sideways). Trees would be labelled with their common and Latin names.

Visitors would find it easier to identify and remember trees from knowing their position in the avenue — for instance, at the start would be acacia, alder, almond, apple and ash; and at the end walnut, wellingtonia, whitebeam, willow and yew. Depending on the space available, there could be between 35 (UK native trees) and 500 trees (including more exotic ones from around the world).

Ideally, the avenue would lead to a striking building of some kind, like the pagoda avenue at New Gardens, and incorporate a cafe and a multimedia tree study centre.

Such a project would take many years to reach maturity, but would become a site that every school would want to visit.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS ALBERY,  
20 Heber Road, NW2,  
June 1.

### Renewable energy

From Viscount Tenby

Sir, As a crossbencher I asked an unstarred question (in effect a time-limited mini-debate) in February on the impact of wind farms on the rural environment. My purpose was neither to condemn nor to promote, but to discuss the long-term implications of such structures on landscapes of more often than not, outstanding beauty.

In addition to myself and Earl Ferrers, then Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, there were 12 other speakers, and many more who would like to have made a contribution but were deterred by the time limit of one hour.

I am accordingly heartened by the varied correspondence in your columns (May 28) and hope the matter will continue to be aired on a regular basis. No responsible person would seek to query the importance of renewable energy, but its contribution to our requirements and any impact it may have on the environment must be carefully and impartially scrutinised.

The new Government has already shown a welcome readiness to put in hand long-term reviews of major current concerns. May I suggest that the whole subject of renewable energy be added to the list.

Yours faithfully,  
TENBY,  
House of Lords,  
May 29.

From Mr T. R. H. Kimber

As Michael Hornsby's excellent report (May 20) clearly showed, wind power and the gesture politics which supported the subsidies it carried are on the point of collapse.

The principal beneficiaries of those subsidies have not been the taxpayers who paid for them. They have been our utility companies, landowners receiving rents for turbine sites, overseas turbine manufacturers and of course the wind farm operators.

Efficient renewable energy is almost as desirable as improved energy use. Whilst such aspirations are beyond reproach, wind power is not. Now is the time to pull the plug.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM KIMBER,  
Newton Hall,  
Nr Carnforth, Lancashire.

### Supermarket trolleys

From Mrs Marilyn Hayward

Sir, Today's leading article on supermarket trolleys (see also letter, May 29) is a little behind the times. There is no need to feel embarrassed about the paucity of one's purchases.

Both my local Waitrose and Tesco have smaller "in between" trolleys which wheel beautifully and are perfect for the single or dual shopper. The only time my husband and I need a large trolley is when we are stocking up on wine and sherry.

Yours sincerely,  
MARILYN HAYWARD,  
8 Langham Way,  
Ely, Cambridgeshire,  
May 24.

### Water off a duck's back

From Mr Mike Peacey

Sir, Mr Tony Fuller (letter, May 30) might be interested to note that ten plastic ducks' worth of aid to Ethiopia provides access for one person to one tap of untreated raw spring water in open country — a facility to be shared by at least 200 other people.

Whilst this represents real progress to many parts of the developing world, I'm sure it would not be viewed with the same optimism in Mr Fuller's native Chipping Norton.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. PEACEY  
(Head of media and design),  
Wessex Water, Wessex House,  
Passage Street, Bristol,  
May 30.







## OBITUARIES

## MANFRED VON ARDENNE

Manfred von Ardenne, German scientist and inventor, died on May 26 aged 90. He was born on January 20, 1907.

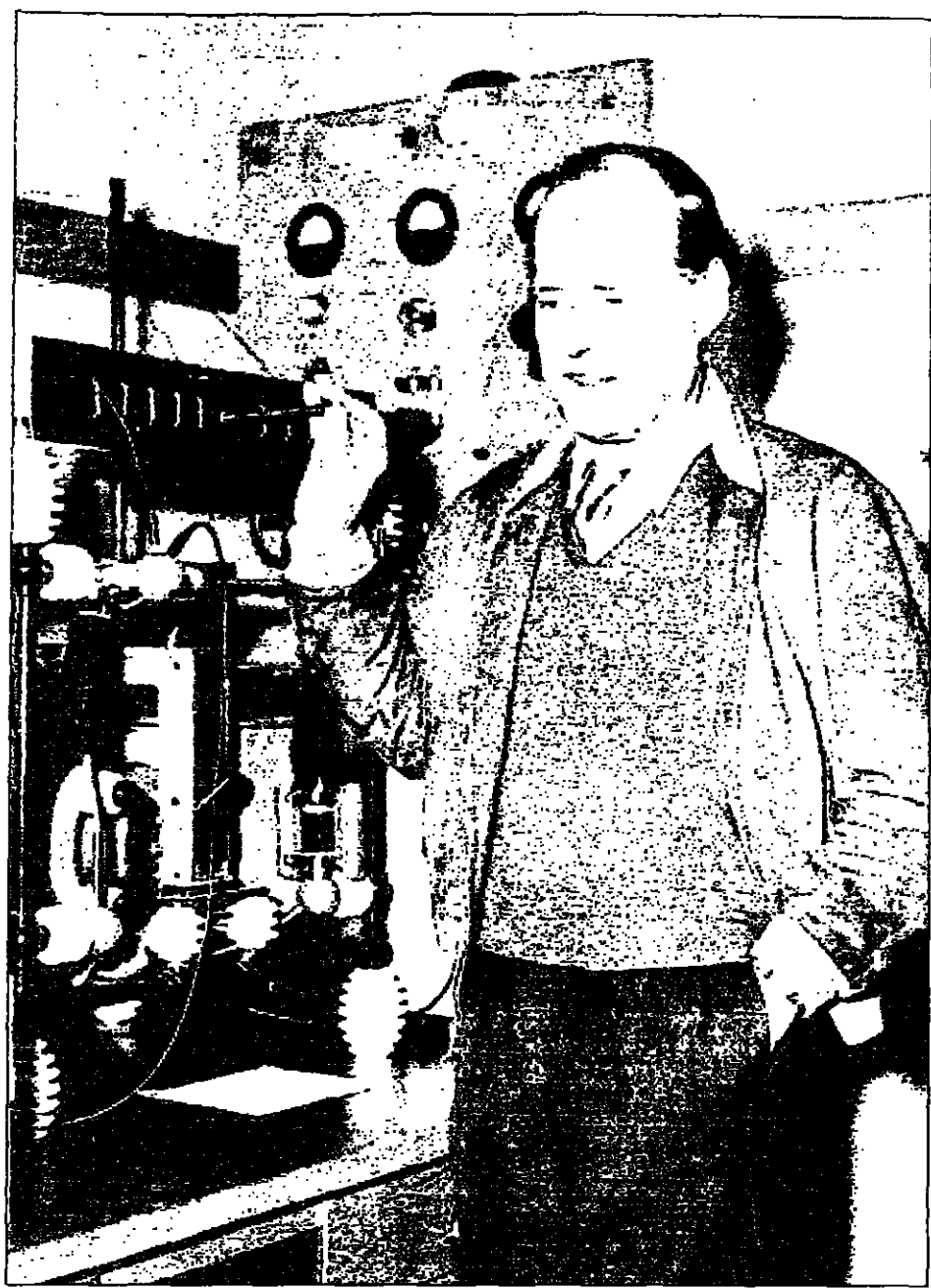
Manfred von Ardenne was a scientific prodigy whose work ranged from radio and television technology to nuclear physics and cancer research. Whatever the field, in more than seventy years of prolific experiment he showed an intuitive genius for spotting and exploiting the value of new discoveries and inventions. He was the author of more than 700 publications, among them some 30 books, and had at least 600 different patents to his name. He worked successfully for Hitler and for Stalin, and in Communist East Germany he became a millionaire.

Manfred Baron von Ardenne was born in Hamburg into an upper-class family of officers and senior government officials (the barony was mid-19th-century and Belgian). The life of his grandmother, Elisabeth Edle and Frein von Plutho, is said to have been the inspiration for Theodor Fontane's great novel of 19th-century German bourgeois life, *Effi Briest*.

The family moved to Berlin when Ardenne's father was transferred to the war ministry there. Ardenne, who as a boy amused himself by building cameras and alarm systems, was no great success at school and left early to pursue his technical interests in an engineering workshop.

At the age of 16 he registered his first scientific discovery: a radio component taken up by the manufacturer Siegmund Loewe, who used it to build a radio receiver in 1926. He went on to read physics, mathematics and chemistry at the University of Berlin, but after two years abandoned his formal studies. At the age of 21, he founded his own institute and taught himself.

Supported by his family wealth, in the early 1930s he did pioneering research that resulted in such developments as an electronic television set,



a high-definition electron microscope and medical diagnostic equipment. During the Second World War he was employed by the Nazis to work on radar technology, and in an underground laboratory in Berlin did research into mass spectrometry and developed a cyclotron for use in atomic experiments. He was dismissive of Hitler: "He knew nothing about technology."

After the war, with other former Nazi scientists, Ardenne worked on the Soviet atomic weapons project at a secret research institute on the Black Sea. He developed a process for splitting isotopes to create highly enriched uranium 235, thereby enabling the Soviet Union to create a nuclear bomb. He later described his work as "our contribution to atomic peace",

arguing that the Soviet bomb brought parity to the arms race and so averted mutual destruction. In 1955, helped financially by the award of the Stalin Prize, he established his own research institute in Dresden: with a workforce of 500, it became the largest private employer in the German Democratic Republic. East Germans nicknamed him "the

Red Baron", and his work enabled the GDR to withstand trade embargoes, and to secure much-needed hard currency through the sale of patents to the United States and Japan. He played an active part in the development of East German scientific policy.

Increasingly, however, Ardenne turned his attention to medical research. "After working on the atomic bomb, it was good to do something humane," he said. From the 1960s he developed a range of controversial cancer treatment techniques, which involved heating a patient's body to high temperatures and adding oxygen and sugar to the bloodstream. Results were not wholly predictable.

Never a member of the Communist Party (nor of the Nazi Party before it), Ardenne nevertheless enjoyed great privileges and prestige in the GDR, including freedom to travel to the West and a private villa overlooking the Elbe. In 1963 he became a member of the country's nominal supreme body, the Volkskammer, and as late as November 1989 he was outlining to his colleagues there a number of proposals to improve the efficiency of the East German economy, a process he described as the "last chance for a humane, worthy and attractive socialism".

It was also the last chance for Ardenne's institute. As East German firms went bankrupt and trade within Eastern Europe collapsed, its earnings dropped from 190 million to 10 million marks. Threatened with ruin by the removal of its state subsidies after German reunification in 1990, and forced to sack half its workforce, the institute was eventually divided into three parts, one of which, the Von Ardenne Institute for Applied Medical Research, the founder continued to run until his death.

Manfred von Ardenne's first marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife Bettina, whom he married in 1978, and by a daughter and three sons, one of whom now takes over the institute.

## DOM AELRED SQUIRE

Dom Aelred Squire, monk and patristic scholar, died at the New Camaldoli Hermitage, California, on May 1, aged 75. He was born in London on December 6, 1921.

"I CAN confidently place the awakening of my 'feeling' for monastic life to around the age of eight," wrote Dom Aelred Squire, "when my family moved to a place on the south coast of England not far from the ruins of Pritwell Priory. I spent many afternoons sitting in these ruins and they taught me something which I would not have known how to put into words."

In his books and articles he found the necessary words, and skilfully mediated the Church's classical tradition to a variety of audiences. Yet his own quest for the hermit's solitude was repeatedly compromised by the tendency of religious to become theological tourists.

Aelred Squire was born Kenneth Squire and baptised in the Church of England. As a schoolboy he loved Latin and reading old sacramentary and other texts of the medieval and early Church. He was attracted to Roman Catholicism, and took instruction from Father Conrad Pepler, OP, who received him into the Church in 1943. He started thinking of a monastic vocation and visited Prinknash Abbey, where the guestmaster was Father Bede Griffiths (who was himself later to join the Camaldoli). He was accepted as a vocational candidate and expected to join as soon as the war was over. But he was pressed to join the Dominicans to fulfil his scholarly potential.

He joined the Dominican community of Hawkesyard Priory in 1946, but took his name in religion from the Cistercian St Aelred. He made simple profession in 1947, and his final vows in 1950, the year he moved to the Dominican College at Oxford.

Ordained in 1952, he wrote his thesis on St Anselm and received his licentiate in sacred theology in 1954. He then enrolled at Oxford University,

but was called by his Dominican Provincial to teach at the Dominican Prep School at Llanarth, Monmouthshire. A year later, in 1956, he was recalled to Blackfriars, Oxford, to teach courses in ascetical theology, church history, and liturgy. He was giving some 21 lectures a week as well as attending three. This very heavy schedule undoubtedly contributed to a stroke in 1957, and he was sent to Liège, in Belgium, to rest and recover.



Returning to Oxford, he wrote an extended introduction to Hugh of St-Victor's *Selected Spiritual Writings* (1962).

Monastic studies nurtured his continuing desire for a more solitary life, so in 1965 Aelred withdrew to live as a hermit in Liège, under the local bishop. However, his very remoteness began to attract the attention of more and more visitors.

Back in England once more for research, he completed his own first book, *Aelred of Rievaulx* (1969), a groundbreaking work on "The English St Bernard" and a significant contribution to the study of spiritual friendship. He now got to know some Norwegian Catholics, who invited him to their own country, with its possibilities for greater solitude. So for some eight years from 1972 he lived a semi-eremitical life in the diocese of Lillehammer, while serving as mission priest, driving from farm to farm to baptise, preach and celebrate the Eucharist. Although quiet enough for much of the year, Lillehammer, as a holiday centre, proved anything but

isolated in season. Balancing the active with the contemplative life was always difficult, and Aelred relished a hectic, gregarious spell at the St Catherine's Dominican Convent in Portobello Road.

His second book, *Asking the Fathers* (1973), is an introduction to Christian spirituality through the centuries, and helped many to discover a love of patristic theology.

A seminar on St Aelred at Gethsemani Abbey in 1975 took him to America, where he first heard of a little Benedictine monastery in New Mexico, Christ in the Desert. Back in Norway he wrote his most developed literary work, *Summer in the Seed* (1980), a theological reflection on the cultural situation after Vatican II, but he continued to feel drawn specifically to the monastic life, and in 1981 he moved to the fastness of New Mexico to test his vocation.

From here he wrote to friends of life without electricity and of coyotes howling in the night, but still he yearned for a more eremitical life. In December 1983 he moved to the New Camaldoli Hermitage, Big Sur, California. The Camaldolese combination of solitude and community, he wrote, seemed to have brought "all the broken pieces" of his life together.

He lived at the hermitage until his death, editing his anthology *Fathers Talking* (1986) and teaching young monks. He also ministered, as homilist, confessor and spiritual director to the community and to many oblates, retreatants and friends, who would come from afar. He tended the community garden with gusto, appreciating the physical labour as a complement to his monastic studies.

He wrote many articles, and participated in patristic conferences at Oxford, Berkeley and elsewhere. He regularly visited the Camaldolese house of studies in Berkeley for his research, and ministered there to many. He was beloved by his community and by his many outside friends for his warmth, his spiritual wisdom and his bemused views on matters ecclesiastical and monastic.

## RICHARD CAWS

Richard Caws, CVO, CBE, chartered surveyor and Crown Estate Commissioner, 1971-96, died from cancer on May 13 aged 70. He was born on March 9, 1927.



RICHARD CAWS, widely known as Dick, was a most distinguished chartered surveyor who enjoyed a career of more than fifty years, spanning private practice and public service and involving work both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The profession of the land will miss not only his presence but his expert guidance.

Richard Byron Caws was the son of Maxwell and Edith Caws of Ealing, west London. He was educated in wartime London and enrolled in 1944 as an articled pupil to George Page, of Nightingale Page & Bennett of Kingston upon Thames. At the same time he started studying for his exams at the College of Estate Management. He was an excellent student and quickly became an accomplished practitioner. Remarkably, when he passed his finals in 1949, he was immediately made a partner.

The Crown Estate was only one of a number of jobs which he took in his stride as one of the most accomplished surveyors of his generation. He was always keen to take on new and different things and constantly aimed at making good use of his expertise and agile mind.

He had been a consultant to the Stock Exchange quotations department on property matters, surveyor to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's

Inn 1969-94; surveyor to the Worshipful Company of Salters 1976-89; a member of the Commission for New Towns 1976-96; senior property adviser to Goldman Sachs 1987-93; and senior property adviser to the BZW Property Advisory Group 1993-97.

He retired from his main public post only last year after a quarter of a century as one of Her Majesty's Crown Estate Commissioners, an appointment which he had held since 1971 and which he relished enormously. The great diversity of the Crown's holdings interested him. Although he was appointed as an "urban" Commissioner, he especially loved that part of his work which involved the Scottish salmon fisheries and other marine matters.

He had a great affinity with the sea and was an avid sailor, but had too little time to indulge this or his other hobbies as much as he would have liked, because of his enduring enthusiasm and love for his work. As a younger man he went in for rally-driving and then took up flying, but his speed of thought and action was not always appreciated by his partners when he involved them in these two pursuits.

About his work for the Crown Estate he is supposed to have said a year or two ago: "Don't tell the Queen, but I would gladly do this job for nothing - it's such fun." Nevertheless, his service was not only recompensed but recognised with his appointment as CBE in 1984 and CVO

in the New Year Honours. Caws always saw it as his duty to put his expertise to good use and to demonstrate why it was that surveyors should be consulted on matters commercial and relating to the land. He was a fervent generalist. He was worried that surveyors were too narrow, too confined and too linear in their thinking. He was a lateral thinker and always sought ways of meeting a problem with a positive suggestion as to how to overcome it.

All through his career he played a major part in the life of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and its international associate the Fédération Internationale de Géomètres.

In his later years he had reverted to being chairman of a small chartered surveying practice which he co-founded in 1987, following a long career which had led him from his beginnings in Kingston to being senior partner of one of the major international chartered surveying practices, Debenham Tewson & Chirncross. He was a non-executive director of Allied London Properties from 1995 to his death, served as an active member of the council of Queen's College, Harley Street, and as a director of the British & International Sailors' Society.

He married Fiona Darling in 1947, the year before he took his finals. She survives him, together with a son and a daughter. His elder daughter, Geneva (Jenny) Caws, QC, died in April and he was also predeceased by an infant son.

## THE QUEEN AND A CONSUMPTIVE PATIENT.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Victoria, yesterday afternoon paid a visit to St. Luke's house, 14, Pembroke-square, Grosvenor, and spent half an hour with the patients. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Hon. Charles Knollys and the Hon. Sidney Greville.

The visit was an absolute surprise to all the officials of the institution, of which Her Majesty is the patroness, and also to the four girls for whose benefit Her Majesty specially made the call. Some days ago Martha Massey, one of the patients in the house, which is for the reception of cases of mental illness in their latest phases, surreptitiously wrote a letter to the Queen saying how much she would like to see her before Her Majesty took a long trip abroad. The poor girl, in spite of the fact that she had been unable to see the Queen whenever she was driving through London or visiting the district of the house owing to her illness. Her only satisfaction was that the nurses told her and what she was able to glean from the newspapers. Would her Majesty graciously go and see her before she died, because she was afraid she would not be living when Her Majesty returned?

Touched by the sincerity of the letter, Her Majesty decided to visit the writer. She reached the house at 4.45, driving from Buckingham Palace in her white motor-car. Arriving at the

## ON THIS DAY

June 3, 1908

Queen Alexandra (1848-1925), the wife of King Edward VII, was impulsive by nature and had a very warm heart.

principal entrance, the Queen inquired, "Is Miss Massey in?" The door was opened by a servant girl who instantly recognized the Queen and for a moment stood astounded. The girl replied to the question in the affirmative, and then invited the Queen into the matron's (Miss B. Brooke-Alder) room. Her Majesty, who was carrying a bouquet of orchids, lilies-of-the-valley, carnations, and asparagus fern, explained the object of her visit to Miss Brooke-Alder, and was once conducted to the ward in which Martha Massey was lying. Surprise and joy combined for the moment overcame the patient, but the kindly words of sympathy from Her Majesty soon dispelled her nervousness. Her Majesty thanked the girl for her letter, and expressed the pleasure it afforded her to respond to the invitation. Miss Massey could not find words to express adequately her

heartfelt thanks to the Queen, but the tears in her eyes indicated the fullness of her heart. Her Majesty handed the bouquet to Miss Massey, and told her that it was specially for her and that the flowers were from the Palace gardens. The Queen then passed on to other patients and distributed some lovely roses among them. When bidding farewell to the matron in the hall, Her Majesty heard some one coughing. "Who is that?" she asked. Being informed that it was Miss Massey, Her Majesty ordered her cough lozenges in the motor-car to be brought her. The Queen then retraced her steps to the bedside of the poor girl and placed one of the lozenges in her mouth. Her Majesty then handed a number of the lozenges to the matron, requesting her to give them to the girl when she was taken with severe fits of coughing.

The girl whom the Queen thus honoured had had a life of trouble and sorrow. Born in London of parents in poor circumstances, she was called upon at the age of 11 to nurse her mother, a victim of consumption, and to look after younger children. Her father, after the mother's death, led a somewhat irregular life, and Martha, when only 14, had to go to work in a factory, earning a few shillings per week. The girl was always frail, and undoubtedly took consumption when nursing her mother. Finally, her father was stricken with consumption, and Martha secured his admission to the same institution where she is now lying. There her parents died.

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# THE TIMES

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2 TODAY



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JUNE 3 1997

Four appointments hailed as adding credibility to rate-fixing body

## City relief at new Bank advisers

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Chancellor's announcement of the four external advisers to the Bank of England's new Monetary Policy Committee was greeted with relief in the City yesterday. Economists said the new members added credibility to the committee, which has responsibility for fixing interest rate policy under Gordon Brown's reform plans.

The appointees are Dr DeAnne Julius, chief economist at British Airways, Sir Alan Budd, chief economic adviser at the Treasury, and two academics, Professor Charles Goodhart and Professor William Butler. Christopher Allsop, an Oxford academic, was also appointed to the Bank of England's Court.

Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said:

"The appointments are all fairly middle of the road and there is no one who I would regard as especially a hawk or a dove on inflation."

Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, said he was "delighted" with the new members and felt certain they would make a major contribution to the Bank.

But there was some concern

over the academic bias in the new appointments. Simon Briscoe, managing director of economic research at Nikko Europe, said: "I am a little uncertain why it was felt necessary to appoint more academics capable of writing incomprehensible documents at the Bank." Other economists said they hoped that more business and industry

representatives would be included in the future.

Professor Goodhart and Professor Butler will have their first taste of the new committee when it assembles for its inaugural meeting on Thursday. Sir Alan will be present only as a non-voting Treasury observer. He will become a full member when he steps down from his post as

chief economic adviser in the autumn. Dr Julius will join in September when she has left her post at BA.

Mr Cole said that he felt the appointments, coupled with the fact that the Budget will not now be until July 2, increased the chance that the Bank will make a quarter-point rate rise on Friday. The Chancellor still has to

appoint two new Deputy-Governors of the Bank who will also join the monetary policy committee.

Professor Goodhart, professor of banking and finance at the London School of Economics, served as a monetary adviser at the Bank for 17 years until 1985. Regarded as an expert on monetary policy, he will continue to work at the LSE.

Professor Butler is also expected to continue as professor of international macroeconomics at Cambridge University. The Dutch-born academic, described by City economists as "brilliant but unorthodox", is known for his critical views on the Maastricht criteria for monetary union.

Sir Alan Budd worked at the London Business School and Barclays Bank before becoming chief economic adviser to the Treasury in 1991. He escaped criticism over the ERM debacle in 1992 and is credited with helping to restore economic credibility under Kenneth Clarke. Dr Julius, a US citizen, has been chief economist at Shell and previously worked at the World Bank in Washington. She will take up a full-time post at the Bank.

Commentary, page 27

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4562.8	(-58.5)
Yield	3.59%	
FTSE All share	2178.68	(-22.29)
Nikkei	20451.85	(+383.04)
New York		
Dow Jones	7321.17	(-9.87)*
S&P Composite	849.00	(+0.72)*

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	96 3/4%	(96 3/4%)
Yield	6.92%	(6.91%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	112 1/2%	(112 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York	1.6347*	(1.6420)
London		
\$	1.6329	(1.6352)
DM	2.8181	(2.7903)
FF	9.5081	(9.4257)
Sfr	2.5352	(2.5144)
Yen	190.23	(190.64)
£ Index	99.8	(99.3)

### DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.7255*	(1.7055)
FF	5.8300*	(5.7645)
Sfr	1.4293*	(1.4145)
Yen	116.55*	(116.25)
£ Index	103.1	(102.7)

### TOKYO

Tokyo close	Yen 116.24	
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### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$19.70 (\$19.50)	
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### GOLD

London close	\$344.85 (\$344.95)	
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Debut drop for Halifax as members take windfall

By CAROLINE MERRELL AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

HALIFAX shares fell more than 5 per cent in the first day of trading as more than two million savers and borrowers in the converting building society bailed out, making an average of £2,200.

Around 23 per cent of the Halifax's new shareholders sold in the institutional auction on Friday, arranged by Merrill Lynch, the broker, which achieved an average price of 732 1/2p, 74 per cent higher than the 420p price originally predicted earlier this year.

They would have done better to hold on and sell in the

market yesterday. The shares initially opened at 776 1/2p and then fell to 734p, only marginally above the auction price but enough to give Halifax a market value of £18 billion, slightly more than Barclays.

The share performance was in contrast to the Alliance & Leicester flotation, where the share price soared on the first day. Richard Coleman, Merrill Lynch bank analyst, said the share price had not been squeezed as high as the Alliance & Leicester share price because the market had been more orderly.

Shares in the banking sector fell yesterday, with some commentators suggesting that institutional investors were selling shares short to deflate the sector's high rating.

A number of Halifax members have yet to receive their share certificates and were unable to trade. James Agnew, of Merrill Lynch, said: "If the share certificates had been sent out earlier it might have encouraged more of a grey market to develop."

The maximum number of shares held by any single Halifax member is 1,181, representing a total windfall of more than £8,500. The vast majority of the 7.6 million shareholders benefited from the basic distribution of 200 shares, representing a windfall of more than £1,400.

Another, much smaller, auction took place yesterday to deal with shareholders whose forms, indicating that they wanted to sell through the Halifax's free dealing service, arrived late. Nearly 9.7 million shares were sold in this auction, representing 0.4 per cent of the share capital.

Market report, page 28



Ex-building society: Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, left, and John Foulds, chairman, celebrate yesterday's flotation on the Stock Exchange

## Metroline chief in line for £3.3m

DECLAN O'FARRELL, who paid £40,000 two years ago to support the buyout of Metroline, will pick up £3.3 million when the London bus operator joins the stock market next month (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr O'Farrell, chief executive, is part of a four-man team who raised £100,000 for a stake expected to be valued at £9.7 million.

Although 780 drivers and other staff will pick up free shares worth an average £9,700, the buyout team's stake is bigger than that given to all other workers combined.

Metroline, which was bought for £20 million, is expected to be valued at £35 million on flotation.

## Ronson pair quit as loss deepens

By JASON NISSE

HOWARD HODGSON, the flamboyant former funeral director, and Christine Pickles, his girlfriend, yesterday resigned from Ronson, the lighter-maker, after it revealed that it was to fall into further losses.

Their departure ends a four-year rollercoaster ride for investors in the company which started as a small brewery called Hoskins, was named Halkin Holdings after Mr Hodgson's central London offices and became Ronson when it took over the lighter company and tried to expand into luxury goods. In that time the shares have fallen from a peak of 65 1/2p to yesterday's close of 14p.

Last October the group raised £10.5 million in a rights issue at 25p, when its brokers, Peel Hunt, predicted profits of £1.5 million. In March, it revealed that a fire at its Newcastle upon Tyne warehouse would bring losses of £1 million.

Yesterday the excuse was bad debts, and the loss deepened to £2 million. Mr Hodgson resigned as chief executive and Miss Pickles as corporate development director. Mr Hodgson is entitled to a £300,000 payoff, but Ronson said he would receive nothing like that amount.

Shaun Dowling, the former Guinness director, has become executive chairman and is bringing in David Clippam, a former managing director of Our Price records, as managing director.

## Strong may receive extra payoff

LIAM STRONG, who resigned as the chief executive of Sears in April, stands to receive extra compensation if he fails to secure "equivalent employment" within nine months, according to the company's annual report (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The report shows he has already been paid £465,000 in compensation. He is due to receive another £214,000 because of changes to the company's pension scheme.

Ian Thompson, who resigned as managing director of Sears' shoe division last year, was paid £225,900 in compensation, while Rod Taylor, former human resources director, received £223,000.

## Lanica share halt may last months

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Lanica Trust, the investment vehicle of Andrew Regan, the failed Co-op bidder, are unlikely to begin trading again for months. They will remain suspended until the Serious Fraud Office ends its investigation into an earlier deal and until a private criminal case is resolved. The SFO investigation, which only began at the end of April, is likely to go on for months.

The company had hoped to see the shares re-listed yesterday, after its full-year results were published. They show Lanica made a 1996 pre-tax loss of £396,798. It has written off its £601,944 investment in Galileo, the company set up to make the Co-op bid, which is now in liquidation. The Stock

Exchange's decision to continue the suspension, which began in February, has raised speculation that it is looking into the possibility of insider trading. The shares rose tenfold before the abortive Co-op bid.

The SFO investigation is into a payment made to Trelis, an offshore company, during a deal to extend a contract between the CWS and Hobson, a company run by Mr Regan which bought the CWS food manufacturing arm.

The CWS has begun a private prosecution of Mr Regan and David Lyons, his co-director, and of Allan Green, a former CWS executive.

Commentary, page 27

## Enron will pay \$440m to settle dispute

By CARL MORTISHED

ENRON, the American power company, yesterday paid the price for its aggressive pursuit of market share in the UK gas sector, agreeing to pay \$440 million immediately in settlement of a dispute over a high-priced contract for the supply of North Sea gas.

BG Exploration and Production, the upstream arm of the demerged British Gas pipelines business, will receive \$134 million in cash payment for its 30.5 per cent of J-Block, a North Sea oil and gas field. The balance of the money will go to Phillips Petroleum and Agip, which operate the field.

Enron said that it would suffer a second-quarter charge of \$675 million leading to a loss per share of \$1.40 to \$1.45. The energy company entered into a take-or-pay contract over the entire gas output of J-Block in August 1992, thought to be at prices of more than 20p per therm.

However, a succession of mild winters and buoyant gas production caused the spot price of gas to collapse to half the level of the long-term contracts.

Failure to agree a start date for the delivery of gas led to a succession of court cases between Enron and the J-Block partners.

The collapse of the gas price also caused financial problems for British Gas, which earlier this year renegotiated a number of take-or-pay contracts with British Petroleum.

Tempus, page 28

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## Pension firms face pressure for fairer service

By NATHAN YATES

THE pensions industry is on the brink of radical overhaul and private pension holders must be offered a fairer and cheaper service, the Government said yesterday.

Speaking to pension company representatives and TUC delegates, John Denham, the Pensions Minister, delivered a thinly veiled threat that pension providers will be expected to sharpen their services and cut their charges as the Government welfare review gets under

way. "There is a deep and widespread sense that the system at the moment is not working," he said. "People who do not have an occupational pension are being hit by high charges and inflexible products. We will be addressing this issue, and pension companies should be looking now at a higher quality of provision."

The move reflects concern that the proposed "stakeholder" pension, which will foster an extensive growth in private schemes, could founder in excess profits for providers. Mr Denham cited one example in which a

customer faced charges devouring 30 per cent of his pension fund. He also pledged that the trend for employers to replace final salary pensions with defined contribution schemes will be closely monitored. Because they guarantee the sum paid into a fund rather than that paid out, defined contributions schemes transfer the risks and possible extra costs of pension provision from employer to employee.

A report by Gissings, the actuarial group, last week found that 37 per cent of companies now offer pensions on a defined contribution

basis. Mr Denham stressed that the Government's plans for widening participation in second-tier private pensions are not intended to undermine final salary schemes. Instead the aim is to assist the 50 per cent of workers who have no access to occupational pensions. "We want everyone to be able to look forward to a comfortable and dignified retirement," he said.

In a reversal of old Labour union policy, a TUC spokesman welcomed the move towards stakeholder pensions, but said care must be taken to avoid another mis-selling scandal.

## Brussels to press for new curbs on closures

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS is proposing that new limits on the ability of companies to close their plants be put to employers and union leaders.

The proposals, endorsed by the European Union, are to be presented within days. They will require companies considering major plant closures to first go through new consultation procedures.

Under European law, EU member states except Britain are already required to put large-scale restructuring proposals through consultative mechanisms with employees by means of European works councils. Britain's social chapter opt-out, which the Government has pledged to end,

means that the UK is not covered by the works council legislation, though many British firms have implemented it successfully.

However, new measures are being introduced after the large-scale row which broke out when Renault, the French carmaker, announced plans to close its Belgian factory at Vilvoorde. Renault's move, which will mean the loss of at least 3,000 jobs directly, led to widespread protests and strikes, plus two legal judgments against the company.

Commission officials feared that Ford was about to follow suit in the UK when it announced the closure of its plant at Halewood, on Merseyside, though a deal was eventually agreed to save the factory.

Employment ministers from all EU member states have been drawing up proposals to try to stave off similar moves by other firms, and details of the plans will be put to employers and employees' meetings this week.

Under the terms of the proposals, companies planning major closures will be pressed to first seek conciliation, where an independent outsider will examine alternatives to closure, and then to mediation, where the mediator will propose a solution.

Full details of the proposals will on Friday be put to Unice, the Europe-wide employers' body, and to unions in the European TUC. Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, wants both of the so-called social partners to consider progress on European initiatives on part-time working, but the proposals for a new code on plant closures are to be put to them as well.

Ad Melkert, the Dutch social affairs minister, said: "The European Commission is investigating whether there is a need for a mediation and conciliation mechanism. Employees and employers alike would then be able to call on such regulations to facilitate solutions for trans-national labour conflicts."

Ministers and Commission officials are predicting that the new proposals will be carried by employment ministers from all EU member states when they meet later this month in the EU social affairs council.

## Andersen rethink on leadership

By ROBERT BRUCE AND JON ASHWORTH

ANDERSEN Worldwide, the world's biggest accounting and professional services organisation, has been caught in an embarrassing leadership tussle.

Its board of partners had recommended Jim Wadia, UK managing partner of Arthur Andersen, as successor to Larry Weinbach, who steps down as chief executive in August. However, Mr Wadia failed to gain the necessary two-thirds "super-majority" vote from Andersen's 2,700 partners in 80 countries.

The Andersen board has now swung behind George Shaheen, managing partner of Andersen Consulting. A new ballot has been called, with the results due later this month.

Mr Wadia was appointed managing partner of Arthur Andersen in the UK in 1993, and he would have been the first non-American to head Andersen Worldwide.

Competitive pressures within the organisation have been growing since 1989, when Andersen Consulting was spun-off as a separate business under the Andersen Worldwide umbrella.

Many Andersen partners have expressed support for splitting Andersen into separate business units. However, they put such issues aside in Paris, supposedly

## Levitt fails to block extradition warrant

By JON ASHWORTH

ROGER LEVITT, the disgraced financial adviser, has failed in a final attempt to block his extradition from America to face charges of lying to Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) inspectors.

Mr Levitt, whose financial services company collapsed seven years ago with debts of £34 million, sought to block the issue of an extradition warrant. He is accused of misleading DTI inspectors over his alleged links with a London boxing promotion company.

Mr Levitt, formerly of St John's Wood, north London, was accused of acting as a director of International Boxing



Henry Roberts, chief executive of Northumbrian Fine Foods, reported a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.13 million in the year to March 31. The total dividend is lifted 50 per cent to 0.15p a share, payable from earnings that rose 25 per cent to 1.84p.

## Tradepoint plea for additional finances

By ADAM JONES

TRADEPOINT, the electronic market set up as an order-driven rival to the London Stock Exchange, is asking shareholders for more money as it struggles to meet its break-even target.

The company has been incurring £6 million a year running costs, much of it staff-related, while it tries to woo a viable number of deals away from the Stock Exchange. Tradepoint, which opened its exchange in 1995, set a target of breaking even on an operational basis by the end of 1997.

Yesterday it said that it needs to handle £50 million of equity trades a day to do so.

However, in the three months to March 31, 1997, it managed an average of just £3.43 million, indicating that traded value must increase by nearly 15 times for it to break even this year.

In the nine months to the end of 1996, Tradepoint lost £4.4 million, taking its accumulated losses to £16.5 million. Yesterday it said in a statement: "The company has, through its broker Williams de Broe, entered into an interim financing arrangement and is pursuing detailed negotiations to secure long-term financing." It did not say how much it was raising.

ICE, and Fiha Nordic, also

## Regulator clears ICE Securities

By ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the security firms at the centre of the investigation into Peter Young's dealings at Morgan Grenfell, was yesterday cleared of rule breaches by a City watchdog.

A confidential letter sent to ICE Securities by Ian Brown of the investigations department at the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, said the watchdog had decided "that there are no grounds upon which any disciplinary proceedings should be taken against ICE Securities in respect of the investigation".

ICE, and Fiha Nordic, also

an SFA member which is still under investigation, provided independent valuations on European investments held in Morgan Grenfell's unit trust portfolios managed by Mr Young, who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry, and Stuart Armer.

The SFA letter added: "As you are aware, tape recordings of telephone conversations between Peter Young, Stuart Armer and third parties are still in the process of being examined. This process is expected to take some time." The SFA said further action could be taken against ICE but this is thought unlikely.

## Watchdog may face Rees' revolt on pricing

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE next price review for the electricity industry could be disrupted by a mass of referrals to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the regulator does not allow companies to pass on the windfall tax in higher prices to customers.

John Roberts, president of the Electricity Association, says Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, may face a revolt from all the regional electricity companies (Rees) if he does not take proper account of the windfall tax in his next distribution price review.

In an interview with *Power* UK, an industry journal, he said: "If he doesn't take it into account, the normal course of action for the Rees will be to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It will have to be recognised in the price control — although perhaps not explicitly. Although companies have the right to seek a referral to the MMC if they disagree with a regulator's decision the prospect of action from 14 companies would throw the regulatory system into mayhem. Water companies and BG and Centrica could take similar action."

Mr Roberts, who received a £15 million payoff when ScottishPower took over Manweb, where he was chief executive, said the electricity supply industry would accept a windfall tax more easily if the net was cast widely.

Industrial and domestic customers have already lobbied John Birtle, the Industry Minister, to make sure that consumers do not foot the bill for the windfall tax.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### France backs Stena merger with P&O

THE French Government has approved the merger of the cross-Channel ferry operations of Stena Line and P&O, according to Stena's head office in Stockholm. The two companies were informed of the decision in a letter from the French Ministry of Finance and External Trade in one of its last acts before the change of government. It said the move "will allow rationalisation of the current overcapacity of cross-Channel maritime services, as well as the modernisation of the fleet and the commercial services on board".

Ferry companies have come under strong competitive pressure from the railways since the opening of the Channel Tunnel. In a statement the companies said they welcomed the decision and highlighted a passage in a letter that said the transaction did not limit trade. The merger has yet to be approved by the European Commission and the UK Office of Fair Trading. The companies said they expected both bodies to make their decisions known shortly.

### Jobs boost for Belfast

MORE than 300 new jobs will be created in Belfast with the establishment of a software development centre. Information Management Resources, a Florida-based company, expects the jobs to be created over the next three years. Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister, said: "Software is developing into one of Northern Ireland's most significant sunrise industries and employs 2,500 people in 40 companies." IMR will make a £2.8 million capital investment; government incentives of £1.9 million have been granted.

### BNFL-Ukraine talks

UKRAINIAN officials are this week holding meetings with BNFL as the state-owned nuclear processing company bids for a £50 million contract to store fuel from Chernobyl's reactors. The interim storage solution would comprise building a dry spent-fuel storage system in the Ukraine using BNFL design and technical expertise. BNFL is hopeful that other work could come from a Chernobyl contract. As the Ukraine no longer depends on the Soviet Union for nuclear fuel cycle services, it is looking to the West for other work.

### South Staffs advances

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER said it had had no indication from the Government that it would have to pay the windfall tax. Despite being a state-owned monopoly, the small water company will escape if Labour applies the levy to privatised companies only, some of which are campaigning for the entire industry to face the tax. South Staffs said pre-tax profit rose 14 per cent to £18 million for the year to March 31. A final dividend of 60p, due on August 1, makes a total of 89p, up 14.3 per cent.

### SDX surges by 44%

SDX BUSINESS SYSTEMS, the digital business communications group that was floated in December 1996, revealed a maiden interim £1.86 million pre-tax profit, a rise of 44 per cent on the previous first half. Sales rose 42.2 per cent to £20.7 million. Earnings rose 26.8 per cent to 3.6p out of which a maiden dividend of 0.5p has been declared. Maurice Pinto, the chairman, said that the group will launch its managed network services business during the summer.

### ABI moves ahead

ABI LEISURE, the caravan-maker, raised pre-tax profits 2.7 per cent to £1.9 million for the six months to February 28 on sales up 4.7 per cent to £44.8 million. Earnings rose 3.6 per cent to 3.74p out of which the half-year dividend goes up 15 per cent to 1.63p. George Shiels, chairman, said: "The trend established in recent years of higher levels of activity occurring in the second half appears to be continuing and on that basis the group's interim results are in line with our expectations."

### Wyndeham at £8.5m

WYNDEHAM PRESS GROUP, the Sussex specialist printer, made pre-tax profits of £8.5 million (£5.1 million) in the year to March 31, helped by maiden contributions from acquisitions and underlying growth. Operating profits rose to £8.5 million from £5.4 million, with a £2.3 million contribution from new businesses. Earnings rose to 17.1p a share from 12.5p. A final dividend of 3.2p a share (2.7p), makes 5.1p (4.3p). The shares rose 6½p to 21½p.

### European Telecom up

EUROPEAN TELECOM, the mobile phone distributor, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.84 million from £2.44 million for the year to March 31. Earnings rose to 10.88p, from 6.55p, and the company is paying a final dividend of 1.75p a share, making a total of 2.5p for its first full year on the stock market. Turnover advanced to £144 million, from £78 million. European Telecom has mushroomed to become market leader in UK mobile phone distribution in just seven years.

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.25	Malta	0.661
Austria Sch	13.74	Netherlands G	3.348
Belgium Fr	61.12	New Zealand \$	2.52
Canada \$	2.382	Norway Kr	11.37
Cyprus Cyp£	0.879	Portugal Esc	206.48
Denmark Kr	11.27	S Africa Rd	7.98
Finland Mk	8.98	Spain Ps	246.50
France Fr	9.92	Sweden Kr	13.46
Germany Dm	2.97	Switzerland Fr	2.48
Greece Dr	474	Turkey Lira	245.21
Hong Kong \$	13.37	USA \$	1.730
Iceland	127		
Ireland P	1.14		
Israel Shk	9.88		
Italy Lira	2036		
Japan Yen	204.20		

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# Thinning the fat cats' cream



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

"Fat cats throughout the land are being ordered to hand over their bonuses to good causes within the week or risk their companies being excluded from all government contracts in the future."

Now there is a message guaranteed to bring joy to the heart of the Beast of Bolsover, although it is hardly in the spirit of new Labour.

If the Government is serious about its aims of forging a new partnership with business, it needs to pick its way very carefully through the Camelot chaos. The delights of winning easy roars of approval from the workers — many of whom will be basking in the warm glow of a Halifax windfall — need to be reconciled with commercial reality.

In particular, the Government should consider what message it wishes to convey to those companies it hopes will become partners in the Private Finance Initiative schemes that are so vital to its future plans. Directors who are already wary of taking on PFI projects are likely to be even more sceptical after watching the treatment meted out to the Camelot directors.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, may have struggled, briefly, against the temptation to play to the gallery but he clearly could not resist the chance to publicly pillory Sir George Russell and his colleagues before demanding they

empty their pockets. The doughty Sir George was unlikely to respond well to this approach. He and his colleagues can be accused of crass insensitivity in trousering hefty bonuses after a year in which the lottery's contributions to good causes shrank, but not of theft.

Camelot has a contract with the Government to run the National Lottery. Had it failed to deliver, it would have faced heavy penalties. Missing the target date for the lottery launch, for instance, would have brought a fine of £1 million a day.

To the average scratch card enthusiast, the company's executives may not look like the premier league of management and their public pronouncements tend to reinforce that judgment. But they have fulfilled their contract and taken the remuneration that was part of it, including the bonuses that related to past performance.

As this column has remarked before, performance-related pay has widespread approval in principle but, when it delivers rewards, the green eyes start flashing almost immediately. So Sir George's suggestion that Camelot would donate to charity a sum equivalent to the offending

bonuses was never going to be enough to appease Mr Smith. He is insisting on hitting the individuals in their pockets.

This may be a popular move, but it is not the way a Government should behave. There is a widespread view that fat cats should have some of the cream siphoned off but there is a fairer way to achieve that end. If Labour wants to hit the high earners, the tax system is intended for just such a purpose.

## The Chancellor's rate of change

For all the new Chancellor's reforming zeal, delivering substance to his rush of policies is proving a slower process. It has taken a rumour-filled month since the reforms at the Bank of England were first announced to put names to the new Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The four appointees revealed yesterday en-

sure that the Bank's MPC will have legitimacy when it meets for the first time on Thursday, but it leaves the committee far from being the finished article. Only two of the appointees, Professor Charles Goodhart and Professor Willem Buiter, will have full voting rights in the early meetings, while Sir Alan Budd will attend only as a non-voting Treasury observer until he steps down from his post in the autumn. Dr DeAnne Julius will not attend her first meeting until September, while a replacement as Deputy-Governor for Howard Davies will not be announced until he steps down in July. The name of the second Deputy-Governor must wait until the supporting legislation is passed at some point in the distant future, although if there is any contender other than Gavyn Davies, the secret is being well-guarded.

The City broadly welcomed the appointments, despite the glaring holes, viewing them as economically and politically neutral. But there are a few obvious tension points between the new arrivals and the four members of the Bank's ancient regime. Dr Julius's appointment will live on the debate on the importance of sterling. Professor Goodhart should provide some interesting views on the Bank's preference for using money supply figures, given that his most famous contribution to economics, "Goodhart's Law", states that any monetary indicator chosen as a base for economic policy-making quickly ceases to have any meaning.

Sir Alan Budd is also understood to believe that the economy can grow at a much faster rate without prompting higher inflation than the inflation hawks in the Bank believe. But while Sir Alan is about to take his optimistic economic outlook to the Bank, Mr Brown has called in the National Audit Office to appar-

ently enforce a more pessimistic regime at the Treasury. The City believes the NAO will find the previous Chancellor's outlook on public borrowing and economic growth too rosy, giving Mr Brown an excuse to raise taxes in his mini-budget.

But his new, independent MPC may also support the idea of a quick rise in interest rates.

## Lanica investors left out in the cold

It is now nearly four months since the Stock Exchange suspended the shares of Lanica Trust. Until recently the exchange was confidently saying that it would allow the shares to be relisted once Lanica published its accounts. Now it has backtracked and it seems that the exchange is waiting for the Serious Fraud Office to complete its investigations into the business dealings of Hobson, the former corporate vehicle of Andrew Regan and David Lyons. Lanica's directors, and as Kevin Maxwell might point out, that can be a very long time indeed.

But the SFO inquiry has no direct bearing on the finances of Lanica. An indemnity exists

because of possible legal actions arising from Lanica's involvement in the aborted bid for the Co-op, but does not cover the Hobson situation. Is there any information which is not in the public domain that could affect the share price? Probably not. Therefore why do hundreds of small shareholders in Lanica have to be disadvantaged by not being able to deal in their shares?

This pathetic behaviour brings to mind a piece of regulation the exchange might rather forget, when it suspended shares in Titagur Jute while it pursued an insider dealing action against Reg Brealey, the chairman. The action failed, but many small shareholders were left high and dry for three years. Then the exchange fell down in its duty to Titagur shareholders. Is the exchange now making the same mistake to the detriment of innocent Lanica investors?

## Bank on it

ABBEY National walking away from possible merger talks with NatWest is not the end of the story. It could herald the start of a much-needed air of realism in the overcrowded world of high street banking where Halifax yesterday made its debut. If Abbey and NatWest don't merge others will. Egos among senior managers will always play a part in banking mergers but the bottom line will prevail. Lord Alexander and Peter Birch are big enough to know that.

# Emap holds talks to dispose of business titles

By ERIC REGULY

EMAP, the publishing and radio group, is in talks to sell a substantial portion of its business magazine portfolio as part of an effort to boost margins in its business communications division.

Robin Miller, chief executive, said the group is negotiating to sell a dozen titles, including the loss-making *Media Week* and *UK Press Gazette*, to a company that he declined to identify. "We're talking seriously to one party," he said.

The business communications division, which includes trade shows related to its pub-

lications, reported a 14 per cent rise in underlying operating profit in the year to March 31. This increase, however, was not enough to match the gains in the other businesses. Underlying operating profits were up 19 per cent in radio, 57 per cent in French consumer magazines and 21 per cent in UK consumer titles, with magazines including *FHM*, *Smash Hits* and *Minx*.

The strong rise in earnings from the French magazines was behind the 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profit, to £121 million, on turnover of £768 mil-

lion, up 9 per cent. The figures exclude a one-off gain of £114 million on the sale of the newspaper and printing businesses. Adjusted earnings per share rose 42 per cent to 38.9p.

Mr Miller said trading conditions in the current year are encouraging, especially in France, where publishing margins have more than doubled to 13.2 per cent since 1995 on flat revenues. The City believes that margins will continue to improve as the French economy gains momentum. Emap is seeing the first signs of advertising revenue growth in France.

The French publishing arm is to be expanded. Emap said: "As the French economy continues to improve, launches and relaunches will become a bigger feature of Emap's business in France and from a considerably reduced cost base."

Mr Miller said the company will announce the successor to Sir John Hoskins, the chairman, in the autumn. Sir John is to retire at the annual meeting in mid-1998. Mr Miller, 56, who has been chief executive since 1985, said he would consider taking the job even though it is a non-executive position.

David Arculus, the former managing director who joined United News & Media in April, has not been replaced. His responsibilities have been "absorbed" by other directors. A final dividend of 8.7p is due on August 1, making a total of 13p, up 16 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

## Filofax suffers profits setback

By FRASER NELSON

FILOFAX, the personal organiser maker, has admitted that its 1996 range "lacked innovation and excitement" and blamed the flaw for its first profits downturn since the recession.

Robin Field, chief executive, said the company had been relying on too many old designs last year, but added that it should now return to growth after launching a new series of organisers. He said: "It's probably been fair to say we have been

a little slow to keep up the pace of innovation. Last year, we had 20 new products in a range of 200. This year, we'll have 90 new designs on sale. We will not be looking at another year of declining profits."

Pre-tax profits fell 10 per cent to £5.92 million in the year to March 31, as earnings declined from 16p to 13.7p a share. In spite of this, the total dividend rises to 3.7p (3.35p) with a final 2.2p payable on October 31.

The company's cash pile jumped from £43 million to £74 million over the year. It intends to plough up to £25 million of this into a share buyback this year.

Sales in America fell 10 per cent, compared with a 22 per cent rise a year earlier. Orders to WH Smith fell by £1 million over the year after the retail chain scrapped buying Filofaxes in bulk in favour of a "just-in-time" ordering system. Mr Field said the drop was exclusive to the supply chain, and had not been accompanied by slower shop sales.



Field: lack of innovation



John Wardle, left, and David Makin intend to continue their store opening programme in spite of the setback

## Airtours expands in US with Suntrips

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AIRTOURS, the UK's second largest tour operator, has continued its strategy of selective acquisitions in North America by buying Suntrips, a Californian package holiday company.

Sunquest Holdings, the company's US subsidiary, is to pay \$20 million to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of ST Pacific Holdings, which trades as Suntrips.

Analysts said that the acquisition was small, but would complement the group's existing business in North America. Airtours has increasingly looked for purchases outside the UK that will bring it a

steady stream of income in the winter when UK travel companies traditionally suffer from a lack of cashflow. The shares rose 4p to £10.97½ yesterday.

In 1994 Airtours acquired the Scandinavian Leisure Group and strengthened its presence in the region with the purchase of the Spies Group.

The North American market is still fragmented and suffering from overcapacity. Carnival Corporation, the largest cruise line in the world, currently has 29 per cent of Airtours' stock and is expected to make a bid for the UK operator in the long term.

## Grampian TV bid talks confirmed

By ERIC REGULY

SCOTTISH MEDIA, the television and newspaper company, confirmed yesterday that it was preparing an offer for Grampian Television worth \$20p a share, valuing the regional ITV company at £105 million.

The price represents a premium of 22 per cent to Grampian's Friday closing price of 262½p. Analysts think the merger will be approved by the Government and the Independent Television Commission.

Scottish Media is considered the only logical buyer for Grampian and no rival bid is expected. Scottish Media is

self, however, could lose its independence. The company is owned 20 per cent by the Mirror Group and 20 per cent by Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer.

Flextech, which needs money to fund a new subscription-channel joint venture with the BBC, is thought to be willing to sell its Scottish Media stake. Mirror Group, run by David Montgomery, would be the natural buyer.

Grampian shares jumped 40p to 302½p, while Scottish Media shares closed at 690p, up 15p.

Off-screen drama, page 29

## Sportswear firms hit by sales dip at John David

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in John David Sports fell nearly 18 per cent yesterday, dragging other sportswear retailers down in their wake, after the company reported a slowdown in sales and particular problems with shifting some leisurewear ranges. Its shares lost 59p to 271p, while JJB Sports lost 12½p to 492½p. Blacks Leisure slid 21p to 518½p.

The sector, already nervous by a profit warning last week from Nike, was rattled by the news that like-for-like sales at JD Sports have fallen since the end of March, after rising 15 per cent in the second half of last year. The company said that last year had been particularly strong because of the Olympics and Euro 96.

The company also said that some of its stock, particularly its more upmarket leisurewear, had been selling poorly. Peter Cowgill, financial director, said that there had been a problem with over-buying of some ranges. A new buying controller has been working to sort out the problems and the poorly selling goods will be sold off at a discount.

Pre-tax profit, after a £650,000 exceptional charge for the cost of damage caused by the Manchester bomb, rose to £9.14 million from £6.79 million. BZW, the company broker, cut its forecast for this year from £12.3 million to £11.1 million. JD Sports, 70 per cent owned by John Wardle and David Makin, its founders, will continue its store opening programme in spite of the trading setback.

Earnings per share were 13.5p. A 3.6p maiden dividend will be paid on October 1.

Tempus, page 28

# Leeds chief sued over £30m Algarve deal

By JASON NISSE

DAVID THOMPSON, founder of Hillsdown Holdings, and his son, Richard Thompson, who is also the chairman of the company that owns Leeds United, are due in the High Court today to defend a legal action that could leave PGA European Tour Courses open to an £8 million damages claim.

The action has led to Rupert Horner, one of the leading lights behind last year's float of PGA on the Alternative Investment Market, resigning from the board of the golf course-owning company. PGA is the UK listed vehicle of Mark McCormack, the international sports promoter.

The legal case has been brought by Roger Abraham, a former director of

Hoare Govett, the brokers, and involves a deal to develop the £30 million Quinto do Lago golf and leisure complex in the Algarve.

Mr Abraham is suing the Thompsons, their UK company, which is PGA's largest shareholder, two former directors of PGA, Mr Horner and Andrew Oliver, two Portuguese investors and a Swiss management

company. Mr Abraham has said he may also sue PGA, which has a 50 per cent stake in the company that manages Quinto do Lago, if the current account is successful.

PGA, where Richard Thompson remains as chairman and Mr McCormack is a director, has disclosed in its accounts that its potential liability could be as much as £8

million. Mr Horner said yesterday that his decision to stand down from PGA's board last month was taken because of the legal action. "I felt I could not give my undivided attention to PGA," he said. The case is expected to last at least a month and could mean that Richard Thompson will not be free to chair PGA's first annual shareholders' meeting.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Rush for Halifax shares gives boost to turnover

TURNOVER on the London stock market soared to its highest level so far this year, swollen by the rush for shares in Halifax on its debut. By the close of business last night 1.28 billion shares had changed hands, of which the Halifax accounted for more than half.

The first Halifax auction for institutional investors attracted an average bid of 732½p and was eventually struck at 721p. But at the start of official dealings the price opened at 770p — its high for the day — in spite of Friday's warning from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, that the shares were overvalued.

But the price was unable to hold its best levels and closed at 734½p, a premium of 13½p. That produces an average windfall for the members of £2.70.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market was making heavy weather of it, although prices did close above their worst levels of the day in spite of opening falls on Wall Street. Victory for the Left in the French elections and revived fears about another rise in interest rates after the May National Association of Purchasing Managers' survey added to the gloom. But it was the sharp fall among other banking shares that did most of the damage.

The FTSE 100 index gave up an early 24-point lead and, at one stage, was almost 72 points lower. It eventually closed 58.5 points down at 4,562.8 with another long list of ex-dividends accounting for five points of the loss.

Gallagher, last week's new entry, slid 3p to 272½p. This was in spite of the efforts of members of the Gallagher board who were busy picking up a total of 163,000 at prices around the 273p mark. But American investors remain net sellers and British institutions are happy to buy the shares at the lower levels. A total of 14.6 million shares had traded by the close.

Confirmation of a mid approach by Scottish Media 302½p. It had been known for some time that Scottish wanted to make a bid. Now both sides are in talks and speculation is looking for an offer of about 320p, valuing Grampian at £105 million. Scottish closed 10½p dearer at 691½p.

The bubble appears to have burst among the sportswear



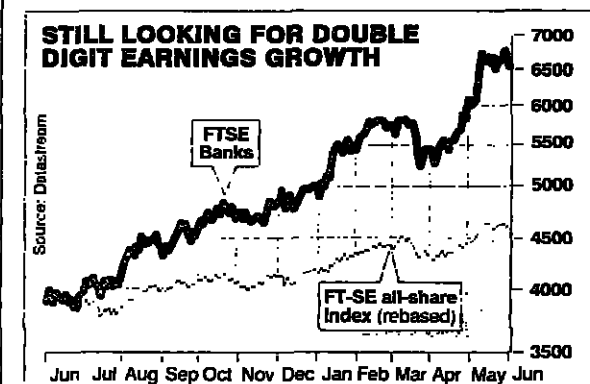
The departure of Howard Hodgson left Ronson at a new low

retailers. Just days after Nike, the US sportswear supplier, said it might miss its forecast, there was a profits warning from JD Sports, down 59p at 271p. The group said that certain lines of clothing were not selling well and would act as a brake on margins. JJB Sports was 12½p lower at 492½p and Blacks Leisure 2½p off at 518½p.

News of losses totalling

about £2 million and the departure of Howard Hodgson, the former undertaker, as chief executive left Ronson 2½p down at a new low of 14p. Christine Pickles has also resigned as head of corporate development. Shaun Dowling becomes executive chairman and says that sales this year are promising.

The latest industry survey from AGB left J Sainsbury



WHILE attention focused on the Halifax, the other banks were left sharply lower on the day as the profit-takers again took advantage of recent strong gains.

Barclays fell another 58p to £11.50. In April the price was £10.50 and has since hit a peak of £12.83. Abbey National was also down, ending 33p lower at 847½p in spite of reports that it had earlier this year rejected a bid approach from NatWest, off 20p at 724½p.

There were also losses for Lloyds TSB, 30½p to 583½p. Royal Bank of Scot-

land, 28½p to 571½p. Standard Chartered, 20p to 947½p, and Alliance & Leicester, 10½p to 601½p.

Johnny de la Hay, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said that after the sector's strong run some profit-taking was inevitable. "Fundamentally, the sector is still positive. It is capable of double-digit earnings growth and dividend growth of more than 15 per cent. Balance sheets remain strong and could lead to more share buybacks. There is also likely to be further consolidation."

2½p lower at 347½p after it was deemed the most expensive of the food retailers at which to shop. Tesco also fell 5½p to 370p and Safeway 4½p to 782½p. By contrast, Asda rose 4½p to 1204½p.

Flofax brushed aside a profit setback to end 5p firmer at 141½p, while Emap celebrated a 40 per cent leap in pre-tax profits with a rise of 5p to 782½p.

Fast-growing Wyndeham Press responded to a bumper profits increase with a jump of 6½p to 211p. Bid speculation drove Kalamazoo, the business equipment supplier 5½p higher to 79p.

Beaufort Group, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, responded to more than doubled pre-tax profits with a rise of 1½p to 4½p. The business services group came to market in November last year, but issued a profits warning in January after losing a big contract. Several others were also delayed. The group is looking to make several acquisitions short term and should be capable of profits totalling £1 million for the current year.

Strong profits growth was also good for a rise in SDX Business Systems of 4p to 214½p.

Not to be overshadowed by the first day of dealings in Halifax, Topps Tiles got off to an encouraging start on its debut. Shares in the group, which sells ceramic tiles, were placed at 100p by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker. After opening at 107½p, the price closed at 112½p, its best of the day, with 1.05 million shares changing hands.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices made a quiet start to the week seemingly unmoved by the swing to the left in France. Early attempts by the future to breach the £115 level ended in failure and the September series of the Long Gilt closed unchanged at £123½. Turnover was on the low side with 26,000 contracts traded as investors continued to roll over from the June series.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 firmed three ticks to £107½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was steady at £102½.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was lower but steady in early trading. At midday, the index was down 0.87 points to 7,321.17.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7321.17 (-0.87)
S&P Composite	849.00 (-0.72)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20451.85 (+383.04)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	14950.00 (+233.09)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	807.48 (+16.51)
AO	2625.7 (+15.2)
Sydney:	
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3605.62 (+57.78)
Singapore:	
Strait	2060.90 (+4.58)
Brussels:	
General	12981.11 (+76.30)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2601.45 (+17.51)
Zurich:	
SEA Gen	1078.50 (+17.70)
London:	
FTSE 100	2942.7 (-28.8)
FTSE 250	4562.8 (-58.5)
FTSE 350	4461.6 (-13.4)
FTSE 1000	2216.6 (-24.2)
FTSE Eurozone 100	2322.89 (+10.6)
FTSE All-Share	2178.88 (-22.2)
FTSE Non Financials	2302.92 (+14.3)
FTSE Fixed Interest	120.12 (+0.12)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.10 (+0.01)
Barclays	11.50 (-0.03)
SEAO Volume	1263.80
US\$	1.6377 (+0.0048)
German Mark	2.8184 (+0.0021)
Exchange Index	99.8 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (Hpm)	
LEU	1.4366
ESPR	1.1778
RPI	156.3 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1997-100
RPIX	155.8 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

## RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	601½	-10p
Aston Villa	830	-
Cable & Wireless	263½	-
Caradon	99½	-
Dorchester 100	100	-
Eagle	35	-
Gallagher	272½	-3p
Halifax	721½	-
Hear of Midlothian	104	-1½p
ITG Group	159½	-
Integrated As Mgt	105½	-
Lady Leisure	124½	-
Longbridge Int'l	119½	-
NMT (SO)	50	-
Newmarket Tech	12	-
Pennine AIM (100)	100	-
Petra Diamonds	67½	-
Quaker (143)	155½	-
Sococo Investments	105½	-
Socoo International	236½	-
Topps Tiles	111½	-
Versatile Group	3½	-

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (205)	16½
Tadpole Tech n/p (10)	1½

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Blackmores	213½p (+17p)
Leopold	515p (+10p)
Berkeley Gp	711p (+10p)
Broken Hill	890p (+12½p)
Euro Telecom	234p (+11½p)
Chiroscience	312½p (+11p)
Danka Bt Sys	610p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Blackmores	518½p (-21p)
Eurochem	397½p (-11p)
Nat West	724½p (-20p)
Com Union	669p (-16p)
Abbey Nat	847½p (-33p)
AB Food	548p (-19p)
Scottish	145p (-14p)
Accord	877p (-27p)
Bank Scotland	373½p (-11p)
Prudential	597p (-11p)
Blue Circle	410p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 30

## TEMPUS

### On the wrong track?

SHOULD professional fund managers be regarded as sheep or lemmings? Their behaviour in relation to the Halifax flotation seems to rule out much independent thought. According to WM Company, 14 per cent of UK pension funds are believed to be index trackers — in other words they weight their portfolios closely to the relative market weightings of FTSE 100 constituents. Tracker funds would therefore be expected to fill their boots with a huge stock market entrant such as Halifax but the WM figure still leaves 86 per cent of funds free to take a view on a new issue.

Where are these stockpicking fund managers hiding? Yesterday, it seems that they were dumping shares in rival banks to finance their bids for stock in the Halifax auction. So anxious were they to avoid missing out, these investment gurus bid as high as 815p for a

slug of this mortgage bank. The closing price of 734½p suggests a valuation somewhere between 15-20 per cent higher than most analysts rate Halifax on business fundamentals.

Clearly, there are more than a few closet index trackers among our brave band of fund managers. But the wider question is whether Halifax holders should fall in line with those shepherded by the index or opt out for fear that the herd is heading for the cliff edge. At this level there is little chance of the Halifax outperforming and the only reason to hold on is in the hope of a special dividend from Halifax's £3 billion-plus of surplus cash. Those who want to retain a weighting in retail banking would be better switching to cheaper stocks such as Barclays where there is still scope for cost-cutting and where there is still shed its investment banking business.

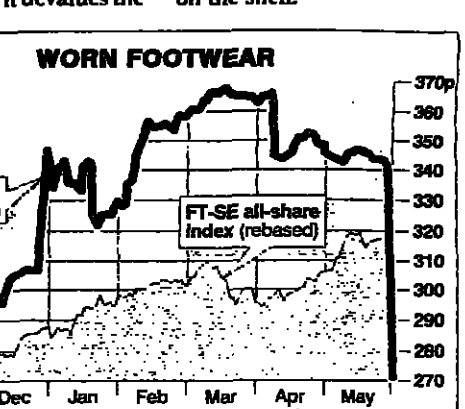
## JD Sports

SURPRISINGLY, perhaps, that the market did not take a cue from last week's profits warning at Nike, the sports shoe manufacturer. Poor trading from John David Sports ought to be a logical consequence but the retailer has even bigger problems than the unpredictable tastes of male teenagers: yesterday's statement gave some worrying indications that the company's stock control is not up to scratch. Since a triumphant stock market debut last September when the shares launched at a premium rating, like-for-like sales growth has tailed off and finally been thrown into reverse.

The Olympics and Euro '96 gave sportswear retailing a huge lift from free publicity, but this year the sector is finding it harder to shift merchandise. Shares in other

firms, such as JJB Sports and Blacks Leisure also fell sharply yesterday.

But John David Sports has a problem all of its own making. Some of its more expensive leisure ranges have been selling poorly and will now have to be marked down in price, something the company would normally be loathe to do as it devalues the



## Emap

EMAP shares have underperformed the market by more than 4 per cent in the past year and boardroom turmoil can take as much blame as the soft trading conditions in some of the publishing company's markets. A row over corporate governance saw the departure of two non-executive directors in December. Four months later, David Arculus, the managing director who can take much of the credit for Emap's strong performance in recent years, defected to a rival media group, triggering a sell-off.

With the worst of the management turmoil behind it, Emap begins to look attractive again. No new managing director has been recruited and this is probably a good thing. New suits tend to promote splashy new strategies and Emap's old ones are working just fine. It does not, for example, need to enter the overvalued TV mar-

ket even though it is the logical extension of its multi-media activities.

Things are looking better on the operational side. Margins are improving in France, which accounts for a third of its business, despite flat revenues. Now that the French market is turning round, further margin growth is all but a certainty. The shares are worth holding at this stage.

ONE can almost hear the ironic chuckles in the BG boardroom as the company contemplated its share of the £440 million settlement of the disputed take-or-pay contract over J block. Clearly, the old British Gas was not the only company that made a mad dash for market share in the UK's bubbling gas market.

Enron, the aggressive American power company fancied itself as an expert in gas trading and managing risk. A large part of the company's

US business is in restructuring and repackaging fuel contracts for utilities. Unfortunately, its decision to acquire the entire output of J block involved taking an exceptionally long position in a foreign gas market moving rapidly into oversupply.

One consequence of the UK gas bubble is the probable disappearance of the old-style take-or-pay contracts under which the buyer acquires the entire output of a field. Gas suppliers will not regret their demise in a market with the arrival of the interconnector and gas exports to Holland and Germany.

BG shares are still looking attractive after a recent advance. With the upstream business valued at 100p a share, the core pipeline business is yielding about 6 per cent, even assuming no better terms as forthcoming from the MMC review.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

## COMMODITIES

## LIFEE

## COCOA

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## GEN LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

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**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992				1992			
Low Company		Price	%	Low Company		Price	%
		4+	%			4+	%
64%	33.00	125.00	1.33	103%	121.00	135.00	4.33
65%	33.00	125.00	1.33	104%	121.00	135.00	4.33
66%	33.00	125.00	1.33	105%	121.00	135.00	4.33
67%	33.00	125.00	1.33	106%	121.00	135.00	4.33
68%	33.00	125.00	1.33	107%	121.00	135.00	4.33
69%	33.00	125.00	1.33	108%	121.00	135.00	4.33
70%	33.00	125.00	1.33	109%	121.00	135.00	4.33
71%	33.00	125.00	1.33	110%	121.00	135.00	4.33
72%	33.00	125.00	1.33	111%	121.00	135.00	4.33
73%	33.00	125.00	1.33	112%	121.00	135.00	4.33
74%	33.00	125.00	1.33	113%	121.00	135.00	4.33
75%	33.00	125.00	1.33	114%	121.00	135.00	4.33
76%	33.00	125.00	1.33	115%	121.00	135.00	4.33
77%	33.00	125.00	1.33	116%	121.00	135.00	4.33
78%	33.00	125.00	1.33	117%	121.00	135.00	4.33
79%	33.00	125.00	1.33	118%	121.00	135.00	4.33
80%	33.00	125.00	1.33	119%	121.00	135.00	4.33
81%	33.00	125.00	1.33	120%	121.00	135.00	4.33
82%	33.00	125.00	1.33	121%	121.00	135.00	4.33
83%	33.00	125.00	1.33	122%	121.00	135.00	4.33
84%	33.00	125.00	1.33	123%	121.00	135.00	4.33
85%	33.00	125.00	1.33	124%	121.00	135.00	4.33
86%	33.00	125.00	1.33	125%	121.00	135.00	4.33
87%	33.00	125.00	1.33	126%	121.00	135.00	4.33
88%	33.00	125.00	1.33	127%	121.00	135.00	4.33
89%	33.00	125.00	1.33	128%	121.00	135.00	4.33
90%	33.00	125.00	1.33	129%	121.00	135.00	4.33
91%	33.00	125.00	1.33	130%	121.00	135.00	4.33
92%	33.00	125.00	1.33	131%	121.00	135.00	4.33
93%	33.00	125.00	1.33	132%	121.00	135.00	4.33
94%	33.00	125.00	1.33	133%	121.00	135.00	4.33
95%	33.00	125.00	1.33	134%	121.00	135.00	4.33
96%	33.00	125.00	1.33	135%	121.00	135.00	4.33
97%	33.00	125.00	1.33	136%	121.00	135.00	4.33
98%	33.00	125.00	1.33	137%	121.00	135.00	4.33
99%	33.00	125.00	1.33	138%	121.00	135.00	4.33
100%	33.00	125.00	1.33	139%	121.00	135.00	4.33
101%	33.00	125.00	1.33	140%	121.00	135.00	4.33
102%	33.00	125.00	1.33	141%	121.00	135.00	4.33
103%	33.00	125.00	1.33	142%	121.00	135.00	4.33
104%	33.00	125.00	1.33	143%	121.00	135.00	4.33
105%	33.00	125.00	1.33	144%	121.00	135.00	4.33
106%	33.00	125.00	1.33	145%	121.00	135.00	4.33
107%	33.00	125.00	1.33	146%	121.00	135.00	4.33
108%	33.00	125.00	1.33	147%	121.00	135.00	4.33
109%	33.00	125.00	1.33	148%	121.00	135.00	4.33
110%	33.00	125.00	1.33	149%	121.00	135.00	4.33
111%	33.00	125.00	1.33	150%	121.00	135.00	4.33
112%	33.00	125.00	1.33	151%	121.00	135.00	4.33
113%	33.00	125.00	1.33	152%	121.00	135.00	4.33
114%	33.00	125.00	1.33	153%	121.00	135.00	4.33
115%	33.00	125.00	1.33	154%	121.00	135.00	4.33
116%	33.00	125.00	1.33	155%	121.00	135.00	4.33
117%	33.00	125.00	1.33	156%	121.00	135.00	4.33
118%	33.00	125.00	1.33	157%	121.00	135.00	4.33
119%	33.00	125.00	1.33	158%	121.00	135.00	4.33
120%	33.00	125.00	1.33	159%	121.00	135.00	4.33
121%	33.00	125.00	1.33	160%	121.00	135.00	4.33
122%	33.00	125.00	1.33	161%	121.00	135.00	4.33
123%	33.00	125.00	1.33	162%	121.00	135.00	4.33
124%	33.00	125.00	1.33	163%	121.00	135.00	4.33
125%	33.00	125.00	1.33	164%	121.00	135.00	4.33
126%	33.00	125.00	1.33	165%	121.00	135.00	4.33
127%	33.00	125.00	1.33	166%	121.00	135.00	4.33
128%	33.00	125.00	1.33	167%	121.00	135.00	4.33
129%	33.00	125.00	1.33	168%	121.00	135.00	4.33
130%	33.00	125.00	1.33	169%	121.00	135.00	4.33
131%	33.00	125.00	1.33	170%	121.00	135.00	4.33
132%	33.00	125.00	1.33	171%	121.00	135.00	4.33
133%	33.00	125.00	1.33	172%	121.00	135.00	4.33
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135%	33.00	125.00	1.33	174%	121.00	135.00	4.33
136%	33.00	125.00	1.33	175%	121.00	135.00	4.33
137%	33.00	125.00	1.33	176%	121.00	135.00	4.33
138%	33.00	125.00	1.33	177%	121.00	135.00	4.33
139%	33.00	125.00	1.33	178%	121.00	135.00	4.33
140%	33.00	125.00	1.33	179%	121.00	135.00	4.33
141%	33.00	125.00	1.33	180%	121.00	135.00	4.33
142%	33.00	125.00	1.33	181%	121.00	135.00	4.33
143%	33.00	125.00	1.33	182%	121.00	135.00	4.33
144%	33.00	125.00	1.33	183%	121.00	135.00	4.33
145%	33.00	125.00	1.33	184%	121.00	135.00	4.33
146%	33.00	125.00	1.33	185%	121.00	135.00	4.33
147%	33.00	125.00	1.33	186%	121.00	135.00	4.33
148%	33.00	125.00	1.33	187%	121.00	135.00	4.33
149%	33.00	125.00	1.33	188%	121.00	135.00	4.33
150%	33.00	125.00	1.33	189%	121.00	135.00	4.33
151%	33.00	125.00	1.33	190%	121.00	135.00	4.33
152%	33.00	125.00	1.33	191%	121.00	135.00	4.33
153%	33.00	125.00	1.33	192%	121.00	135.00	4.33
154%	33.00	125.00	1.33	193%	121.00	135.00	4.33
155%	33.00	125.00	1.33	194%	121.00	135.00	4.33
156%	33.00	125.00	1.33	195%	121.00	135.00	4.33
157%	33.00	125.00	1.33	196%	121.00	135.00	4.33
158%	33.00	125.00	1.33	197%	121.00	135.00	4.33
159%	33.00	125.00	1.33	198%	121.00	135.00	4.33
160%	33.00	125.00	1.33	199%	121.00	135.00	4.33
161%	33.00	125.00	1.33	200%	121.00	135.00	4.33
162%	33.00	125.00	1.33	201%	121.00	135.00	4.33
163%	33.00	125.00	1.33	202%	121.00	135.00	4.33
164%	33.00	125.00	1.33	203%	121.00	135.00	4.33
165%	33.00	125.00	1.33	204%	121.00	135.00	4.33
166%	33.00	125.00	1.33	205%	121.00	135.00	4.33
167%	33.00	125.00	1.33	206%	121.00	135.00	4.33
168%	33.00	125.00	1.33	207%	121.00	135.00	4.33
169%	33.00	125.00	1.33	208%	121.00	135.00	4.33
170%	33.00	125.00	1.33	209%	121.00	135.00	4.33
171%	33.00	125.00	1.33	210%	121.00	135.00	4.33
172%	33.00	125.00	1.33	211%	121.00	135.00	4.33
173%	33.00	125.00	1.33	212%	121.00	135.00	4.33
174%	33.00	125.00	1.33	213%	121.00	135.00	4.33
175%	33.00	125.00	1.33	214%	121.00	135.00	4.33
176%	33.00	125.00	1.33	215%	121.00	135.00	4.33
177%	33.00	125.00	1.33	216%	121.00	135.00	4.33
178%	33.00	125.00	1.33	217%	121.00	135.00	4.33
179%	33.00	125.00	1.33	218%	121.00	135.00	4.33
180%	33.00	125.00	1.33	219%	121.00	135.00	4.33
181%	33.00	125.00	1.33	220%	121.00	135.00	4.33
182%	33.00	125.00	1.33	221%	121.00	135.00	4.33
183%	33.00	125.00	1.33	222%	121.00	135.00	4.33
184%	33.00	125.00	1.33	223%	121.00	135.00	4.33
185%	33.00	125.00	1.33	224%	121.00	135.00	4.33
186%	33.00	125.00	1.33	225%	121.00	135.00	4.33
187%	33.00	125.00	1.33	226%	121.00	135.00	4.33
188%	33.00	125.00	1.33	227%	121.00	135.00	4.33
189%	33.00	125.00	1.33	228%	121.00	135.00	4.33
190%	33.00	125.00	1.33	229%	121.00	135.00	4.33
191%	33.00	125.00	1.33	230%	121.00	135.00	4.33
192%	33.00	125.00	1.33	231%	121.00	135.00	4.33
193%	33.00	125.00	1.33	232%	121.00	135.00	4.33
194%	33.00	125.00	1.33	233%	121.00	135.00	4.33
195%	33.00	125.00	1.33	234%	121.00	135.00	4.33
196%	33.00	125.00	1.33	235%	121.00	135.00	4.33
197%	33.00	125.00	1.33	236%	121.00	135.00	4.33
198%	33.00	125.00	1.33	237%	121.00	135.00	4.33
199%	33.00	125.00	1.33	238%	121.00	135.00	4.33
200%	33.00	125.00	1.33	239%	121.00	135.00	4.33
201%	33.00	125.00	1.33	240%	121.00	135.00	4.33
202%	33.00	125.00	1.33	241%	121.00	135.00	4.33
203%	33.00	125.00	1.33	242%	121.00	135.00	4.33
204%	33.00	125.00	1.33	243%	121.00	135.00	4.33
205%	33.00	125.00	1.33	244%	121.00	135.00	4.33
206%	33.00	125.00	1.33	245%	121.00	135.00	4.33
207%	33.00	125.00	1.33	246%	121.00	135.00	4.33
208%	33.00	125.00	1.33	247%	121.00	135.00	4.33
209%	33.00	125.00	1.33	248%	121.00	135.00	4.33
210%	33.00	125.00	1.33	249%	121.00	135.00	4.33
211%	33.00	125.00	1.33	250%	121.00	135.00	4.33
212%	33.00	125.00	1.33	251%	121.00	135.00	4.33
213%	33.00	125.00	1.33	252%	121.00	135.00	4.33
214%	33.00	125.00	1.33	253%	121.00	135.00	4.33
215%	33.00	125.00	1.33	254%			



## UNIT TRUST PRICES 31

**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**





## FESTIVAL

From a moving monologue about the oppression of the Aborigines...



## FESTIVAL

...to a Chinese view of the great Outback: Lift presents the best of new Australian drama

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 1

Riccardo Chailly is our Building a Library choice of recording for Brahms's Second Symphony



## MUSIC 2

André Previn launches a scintillating Ravel series with the LSO at the Barbican

# A Lift to Down Under

Richard Morrison previews a bold Australian invasion of the London International Festival of Theatre

Crocodile Dundee, barbies, tinnies, surfers, soaps, Kylie, Edna... ask most of us to free-associate on the word "Australia" and the old clichés would surely come tumbling out. Then, perhaps, we might push our geo-cultural memory banks really hard and come up with *Shine*, *Tap Dogs*, Baz Luhrmann, and great chardonnays from unlikely creeks in New South Wales.

And after that? Well, the global village may be shrinking, but in cultural terms Britain and Australia can rarely have been further apart. Today we define ourselves within Europe, while they are increasingly preoccupied by Pacific Asia. Fewer and fewer Australians have family ties with Britain, and the old allegiances to Commonwealth and Crown are moving inexorably into the realms of the surreal.

True, our trading and sporting links remain, and a shared language (more or less) allows a brisk two-way bombardment of dull television programmes. But no longer do their big hopes and fears coincide with ours.

Against this background Britain and Australia have embarked on the biggest cultural exchange in their histories. Called *New Images*, it was initiated by the British Council to celebrate its 50th anniversary in Australia, and brings

more than 150 British-themed events to all six states.

In return, the Australia Council this week launches a £150,000 project to give Britain a hefty dose of Australian culture. But this is no parade of famous names and safe programmes. Rather, the Australians, with commendable frankness, are presenting a series of unusually critical "state of the nation" portraits.

Three are staged this month at the London International Festival of Theatre (Lift), and each paints Australia as a place of confused identity, lingering colonial resentments and unreconciled racial differences. Some countries might shrink from giving an official platform overseas to such a downbeat image; it would be surprising, for instance, if the British Council presented a foreign festival with three plays all dealing with Ulster's history from the Irish republican point of view. But race has become the hot political potato in Australia at present. For many writers — whether in theatre or newspapers — it's the only subject in town.

Aboriginal groups, and many white Australians, are agitating for past wrongs to be put right: the theft of land; the high incidence of Aboriginal males dying in police custody (the subject of a highly critical royal commission scrutiny); and the "stolen children" scandal. Meanwhile, Asian Australians are fearful of a



William Yang's autobiographical monologue and slide-show. *The North*: a haunting parable about all migrations, all minorities, all ghettos

virulent new strain of racist redneck politics which seeks to blame non-white immigrants for rising unemployment.

The fact that all three London-bound plays comment on these volatile matters with dignity and wit rather than agitprop polemic is perhaps the best indication that Australia's sense of fair play will triumph over intolerance. Nevertheless, there can be no doubting the serious intent of these warning messages, particularly in *The 7 Stages of Grieving* by the Aboriginal company Kooemba Jdarra.

Here, an Aboriginal "everywoman" recalls a 210-year history of conquest and oppression in a series of monologues, while a big block of ice slowly melts, dripping frozen tears onto a pile of red earth. The symbolism is not too impenetrable. "When you get bitterness within a whole community, people can't find emotional fulfilment," says Wesley Enoch. Kooemba Jdarra's director.

The group's style is to mix ancient rituals (in this play, for instance, the hiding of all images of a dead person) with very new subject-matter. "We presented a children's show about young Aborigines being taken away from their families quite some time before last week's stolen-children report," Enoch says. "And *The 7 Stages* came out of the death in police custody of one of our young dancers."

Despite this grim background, Enoch is cautiously hopeful. "Back in 1988 Australia thought that the bicentenary of our conquest was something to celebrate. In-

stead it became an interrogation of our national identity. Out of that, good came. Thirty years ago, my father couldn't even vote. There has been progress."

William Yang's *The North* is another monologue, but very different in tone: understated, delicately evocative, dryly humorous. Yang is Chinese Australian. His family came to north Queensland in one of the late 19th-century gold rushes. A society photographer by trade, he was inspired by Spalding Gray to start stringing together his images into sophisticated slide-shows with spoken commentaries, and won national fame with *Sadness* — a journey through bereavement, as AIDS hit the Sydney gay scene.

In *The North* he revisits the dry, stunted small-town Queensland of his own childhood, and also the China of his ancestors, in an attempt to "redefine what it is to be an Australian". That may sound desperately parochial for British audiences, but such is the beguiling humour of Yang's

words, and so artful are his photographs, that *The North* becomes a haunting parable about all migrations, all minorities, all ghettos. It could as easily be about the Asians in Bradford. And it has a remarkable musical score: a weird mixture of falsetto vocals and handmade folk instruments, all supplied live by Colin Offord.

The third Aussie show at Lift is more whimsical. *The Geography of Haunted Places* is described as a "satirical critique of invasion and conquest" in which a fading beauty queen shares the stage with seven stuffed animals, and the metaphors — equating colonisation to rape — flow fast and loose. It's fair to say that the Australian critics were as irritated by the show's quirky obscurities as they were mesmerised by the epic, more-or-less-uncluttered performance of Erin Heffernan as "Miss Discovery": an amalgam of abused women through history.

Not all the events in *New Images* are anguished dissertations on Australian identity. There is, for instance, unlikely to be much post-colonial angst when the stirring young bloods of the Australian Chamber Orchestra lead a small Aussie invasion of the Wigmore Hall in October.

Nevertheless, with the Aboriginal dance group Bangarra coming to the Edinburgh Festival, and Aboriginal painting heavily featured in an Australian art show at MOMA in Oxford this summer, Australia seems intent on starting us with a "new image" that is defiantly non-British in its cultural references. Get used to it. We shall be hearing a lot more from this highly articulate, increasingly politicised "Black Australia" in the build-up to the Sydney Olympics.

● *The Geography of Haunted Places* is at the Royal Court, Upstairs, from tonight to Sunday. *The 7 Stages of Grieving* is at BAC from Thursday to June 15. *The North* is at BAC from June 15 to 22. Lift booking: 0171-312 1995

## Time to unravel Ravel

CONCERT

LSO/Previn  
Barbican

THE London Symphony Orchestra's mini-series of four Ravel concerts, all with André Previn, is inspired programming. Too often themes seem to be adopted for thematic sake, but Ravel is a composer in need of this kind of concentrated treatment, one who otherwise tends to be taken for granted or played as a make-weight to something else. And few conductors have Previn's natural feel for Ravel's bewitching melodiousness or brilliant orchestration.

Ravel: *Through the Looking-Glass*, as the series is called, promises many varied reflections, but just how much of the enigmatic figure it will reveal remains to be heard. Already in the first concert we heard three very different aspects of Ravel, with the three works sharing only a certain emotional objectivity.

Ravel the minimalist was represented by the *Mother Goose* ballet, happily given complete. Perhaps it is his part-Swiss ancestry that has led to the composer being belittled as a "watchmaker", but the precision in *Mother Goose* shows gigantic imagination, and light orchestration is used to conjure up astonishingly rich effects. Previn also hinted at the sensuousness hidden underneath the innocent surface: after an uncharacteristically tenuous start from the orchestra he drew refined performances.

There is much less to *Zigane*, a virtuoso rhapsody for violin and orchestra full of rather generic-sounding "gypsy" music. Everything depends on the soloist pulling off the tricks, and Eunice Lee managed most of them: she dug into the unaccompanied opening soulfully, and was teasing and finally fierce in the bravura main section.

Bigger-scale Ravel, in every sense, was heard after the interval in the two suites from *Daphnis et Chloé*. Something intangible "clicked" between the orchestra and its conductor laureate here, resulting in a sumptuous but never self-indulgent account of the composer's greatest score.

JOHN ALLISON

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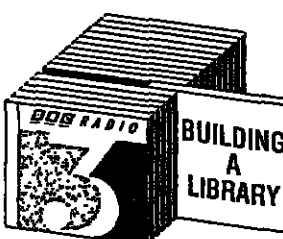
## BRAHMS'S SYMPHONY No 2

Reviewed by Anthony Burton

PARTLY no doubt because of this year's centenary of Brahms's death, there is no shortage of recordings of his symphonies in the current catalogue. But among the 58 available versions of the Second Symphony, the sunniest and most relaxed of the four, there are few which I can wholeheartedly recommend.

The main problems presented by the work are to do with tempo: the speed to be set in each movement, and in particular the extent to which this should be varied — something for which Brahms gives very few specific instructions. Excessive changes of tempo can sound forced or inorganic: a charge which can be levelled even at such celebrated recordings as those of Claudio Abbado, Gunter Wand, George Szell and Bruno Walter; and indeed, for all his research into 19th-century performance practice, that of Roger Norrington.

The choice of recommended recordings is widest among the mid-price reissues. Herbert von Karajan's 1977 Berlin recording on Deutsche Grammophon is the most satisfying of his currently available performances, though its super-smooth phrasing tends to clog the orchestral textures. In contrast, Otto Klemperer's 1950 Philharmonia recording on EMI is angular in phrasing, and its orchestral sound ungratifying; but it has great strength and integrity.



However, these and several other fine mid-price issues are eclipsed by Leonard Bernstein's 1982 live recording with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Deutsche Grammophon). This can be criticised for many details, but it is a performance of passionate, desperate conviction.

As for my overall recommendation, there is some superb playing by the Saito Kinen Orchestra, very well recorded by Philips; but Seiji Ozawa's interpretation loses momentum in a disappointing finale. Kurt Masur also draws playing of outstanding tonal refinement from the New York Philharmonic, matched by Teldec's airy recording; again the finale is the problem — it is a little uneven and prosaic.

Best of all is Riccardo Chailly with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (Decca 430 324-2, £14.99). This has excellent orchestral playing and recording; the first movement, faster than most, seems to be perfectly paced; the middle movements are phrased with great affection; and the finale ends in a brilliant, but unforced, blaze of excitement.

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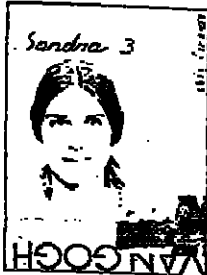
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**■ VISUAL ART 1**  
Kitaj's parting shot at his critics enlivens a dull Royal Academy Summer Exhibition



**■ VISUAL ART 2**  
... while work by China's leading painter, Chen Yifei, is shown in Britain for the first time

# THE TIMES ARTS



**■ VISUAL ART 3**  
At the ICA Darren Almond attempts to capture the atmosphere of Pentonville



**■ VISUAL ART 4**  
Drawings and sculpture from southern Africa and Nigeria go on show at the Brunei Gallery

VISUAL ART: The Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition; a Chinese painter's London debut; plus galleries

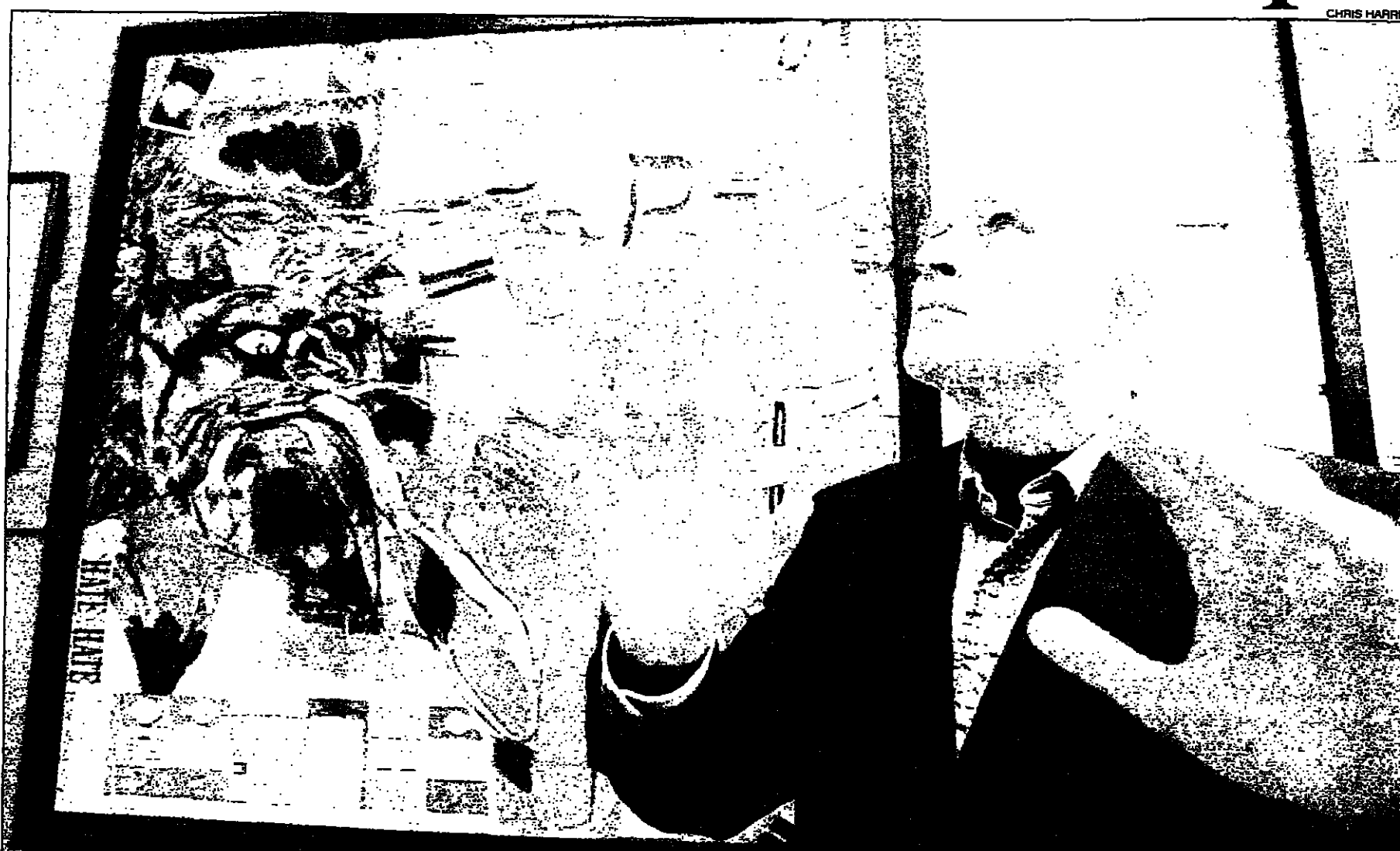
## Tears rain on the summer parade

**Richard Cork on a crammed RA show dominated by R.B. Kitaj**

The moment you enter the Royal Academy's latest Summer Exhibition, R.B. Kitaj's *Leah* howl of rage resounds from a distant wall. A deeply embittered farewell from an artist who is abandoning England for California, his fusillade of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and books is aimed at members of my profession. For Kitaj was mortified by the critical savaging his Tate retrospective suffered, and he blames hostile reviewers for the tragic death of his wife Sandra Fisher soon afterwards. Far from tending his wounds in private, he here takes a very public and gory revenge.

At the centre of his wailing wall, a macabre killing is enacted. Based on Manet's *Execution of the Emperor Maximilian*, Kitaj's hectic painting shows a bearded rifleman firing at a grotesquely bloated head spattered with blood, bile and dead wasps. The executioner resembles Manet himself, whose portrait by Degas hangs near by. But he is clearly a stand-in for Kitaj, and on the butt of his weapon Dylan Thomas's impassioned elegy ("Do not go gentle") proclaims his commitment to an angry grief. Peppering with bullets, the multi-eyed gorgon spews a rancid stream from its repellent mouth. And just in case anyone remains uncertain of the monster's identity, Kitaj has inscribed its vomit with a murderous chant: "yellowpressyellowpress-killkillkill".

While I found much to admire in his Tate retrospective, critics have a right to express even the most blifflous opinions. Kitaj would have been far better advised to ignore his detractors, and I am saddened that his wife's sudden death drove him to adopt such overheated tactics. What I do support, though, is Kitaj's decision to fill the rest of the room with the work of his friends. He was responsible for calling them the School of London, and his old wicked humour resurfaces when he explains that "I have invited a few of the Over-The-Hill Gang to join me... because I believe in a geriatric avant-garde".



R.B. Kitaj and the centrepiece of his anti-critics "wailing wall" at the Royal Academy: the artist believes that hostile reviews of his Tate retrospective led to his wife's death

Some have never shown at the RA's summer jamboree before, and their contributions stand out. Lucian Freud's drawing of a bare-chested Francis Bacon is wittily incisive, while Leon Kossoff's swimming-pool drawing pulses with a fierce, exuberant energy. The most moving figure, though, is Frank Auerbach's portrait of Sandra. His brushmarks decisively summarise her gaunt face, but the features seem to be disintegrating as well, and the pallor of her flesh already appears sepulchral.

What does the rest of the exhibition look like, in its 229th year? Since nearly 3,000 works were sold in last summer's show, and more than 120,000 people visited it, this

annual ritual clearly enjoys huge esteem in some quarters. But I cannot pretend to have enjoyed the latest instalment. Quite simply, an embarrassment of inferior entries is put on display, and the sheer visual congestion threatens to smother the impact of the finest individual images.

Take the opening room, where a deserved memorial tribute is paid to William Caxton. His recent death deprived British art of a pioneer abstractionist, and the seven canvases on view ought to have celebrated his robust, sensuous panache. But they are all crammed together in a cluster so tight-packed that the homage seems nothing more than a token gesture.

Proper space has been found, elsewhere in the room, for a bold, raw painting by Anselm Kiefer scattered with a swarming mass of sunflower seeds. And on the opposite wall, Prunella Clough's quieter *False Flower*, where a shimmering yet sickly growth rises from a grey urban structure, is allowed to make an impact.

Nobody could accuse John Hoyland of reticence. His pigment-smeared painting-boots feature on the poster for this year's show, and in the largest gallery Hoyland's titanic canvas *Story from Nature* proves that he has lost none of his life-affirming exuberance. Looking round the room, I realised that an exhibitor offered a vision that escapes from the prevailing bland-

ness. Carole Weight, an octogenarian obsessive, can always be relied on to provide a haunted corrective. His *Going Home, Evening* is charged with an authentic sense of isolation and agoraphobic dread. Josef Herman is another senior painter with a dark, brooding imagination, and his powerful back view of a woman at dusk has a welcome economy.

Anthony Green, on the other hand, stands out through the strength of his steadfast optimism and love. His paintings look as if they have exploded into a series of quirkily shaped fragments. One even has a fissure running through its centre, but the rift does not impair his matrimonial devotion to

the woman sleeping on the bed. Grey-bearded and slumped, he busies himself with teacups in his crumpled pyjamas. The aerial perspective adds a feeling of vertigo, but Green's attachment to conjugal life is unwavering.

Although Green heaps each little painting with minutiae, he still manages to preserve vivacity. But most of the artists who stand out here understand the value of ruthlessness. Roy Odade, who fully deserves his £10,000 Korn/Ferry Award, knows just how to eliminate inessential. Glimpses of earlier versions can still be detected beneath the final layers of paint in his *Sitting-Up*. But the woman on the bed has been reduced to a few tensely brushed contours. At once vulnerable and resilient, her figure is contrasted with the thick, luscious white paint spread savagely across the pillow and sheet.

adly, the Academy's recent fire means that its architectural models and drawings are excluded. They will be shown instead at the Architectural Foundation (opening on Sunday), but I hope their banishment is a temporary affair. Artists and architects are too divorced from each other, and their presence together at Burlington House is an annual affirmation that the alliance between them should be expanded.

So should the display of sculpture. In the past, the superabundance of painters has threatened to squeeze sculptors out. They are still not visible enough, and bronzes as feeble as Bernard Sindall's titillating *Daisy Sitting on a Wall* are given far too much prominence. Even so, Philip King's two ceramic pieces look impressive in the room they dominate. His ability to play with variations on the theme of a vessel seems inexhaustible. The tall *Pitcher and Cup* is erect, vigilant and phallic, while a smaller work called *The Watcher* is a more restless, tilting affair, alive with unexpected Baroque protruberances.

Tony Cragg's *Early Form* proves that an outstanding younger generation of sculptors is now welcome at the Academy as well. Whirling with contained energy, this gleaming presence testifies to the strength of contemporary British art, and returns at the same time to the very origins of sculptural expression.

● The Summer Exhibition is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438) until August 17

## Shanghaied by paint

What should a Chinese artist look like nowadays? Chen Yifei, at 51 the most successful living artist in China, ought to provide a useful index — but he might more readily be taken for a bank manager. An extremely cheerful, jolly bank manager, but all the same the neatly suited exterior hardly suggests artistic obsessions blazing beneath.

Appearances, however, are deceptive: talk to him for a few minutes, and you encounter instead a fanatical perfectionist determined to express his vision in art. It has been a long road to his present international fame, which takes him to the Venice Biennale later this month and to his debut British exhibition at Marlborough Fine Art this week. Born in Ningbo and brought up in Shanghai, Chen had many advantages. His father was a successful chemical engineer, his mother a former Roman Catholic nun, and the family was well-off, cultivated and unusually in touch with Western art and thought. When Chen showed precocious artistic talent, they were happy

**John Russell Taylor meets China's greatest living artist**

to go along with it, and he found further support with the Communist Youth Pioneers at his school.

At 14 he entered the Shanghai High School for Art, where he received a comprehensive training in Western art technique: most of the teachers had passed their formative years in Paris, the prewar mecca of Chinese artists, and China's close cultural connections with Russia in the early days of Communist government also encouraged Western-style realism in painting. The onset of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 complicated life, but did not fundamentally change China's artistic direction.

That, says Chen, was because, while in every other art Western influence was roundly condemned, in painting native Chinese techniques were not suitable for the

heroic, monumental approach the Government required to propagate Mao's image. And so, although Chen's parents, as "intellectuals", were constantly under threat of exile to work camps and he himself was periodically sent off to work in the fields, he was also frequently summoned to Beijing to produce imposing official portraits and heroic set-pieces. "There was no alternative if you wanted to go on painting. And I was just passionate about painting. Every subject has its uses in the perfecting of technique. Cézanne did not have to love a specific apple in order to paint it; I did not have to love Mao."

By the time the Cultural Revolution passed, in the mid-1970s, Chen had become a leading artist of the Shanghai Institute of Painting, had married and become a father, had won a variety of prizes, and had achieved access to Western art magazines which were denied to the vast majority in China. One thing was clear to him: if he was to grow as an artist, he had to go to the West.

In 1980, obtaining a noni-



*Morning on the Long Canal* (1995) by Chen Yifei

nal sponsorship from members of his extended family in New York, he managed to get there with just \$38 in his pocket. "I didn't care. I decided that if I just had time enough in New York to get myself to the Metropolitan Museum for a day, the trip would have been worthwhile." He obtained a scholarship to Hunter College, and got work in New York as a picture restorer. One day,

passing the Armand Hammer Gallery, he was tempted in, showed them his work, and was commissioned by Hammer himself to paint for a one-man show in 1983.

Though he made occasional return visits to China, he remained based in New York for the next decade. His growing success included a commission from the United Nations and the presentation of his painting, *Memory of*

*Homeland — Double Bridge*, to Deng Xiaoping as a personal gift from Armand Hammer. In 1988 Chen made his first visit to Tibet, which has subsequently become a constant theme in his work, and in 1990 he moved back to Shanghai. He feels that his time living in the West has made his art richer and more complex: he now paints with a heavier impasto, in a more "painterly" fashion.

Since childhood he has also been fascinated by the cinema, and in 1993 made an autobiographical feature documentary, *Old Dreams on the Sea*, and a fictional feature, a love story called *Evening Liaison*, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival in 1995. He raised the money for those from his painting, but now he is involved in a more expensive project. "I made last year the first part, which is a documentary about Jewish refugees in Shanghai. Now I have to go to the money-men to finance the second, which is a fiction on the same subject. It needs sets. It needs an international cast. So what else can I do? Observing the glint in Chen's eye, the outcome is not in doubt."

● Chen Yifei, Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161) from Thur to July 19

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT SEEMS that Siobhan Hapaska works with two different languages. The shiny, abstract, off-centre, off-beat, anti-logical space-age objects with highly polished pearlescent surfaces, which seem to be a motto for her sculptural activity, are accompanied in every exhibition by the odd funny figurative element, which is probably intended to act as a disclaimer.

Three of the more formal shiny wall-mounted pieces make their way across the gallery at Entwistle, while in the centre of the gallery a piece of genuine tumbledraw ranges from side to side on electrified tracks. Downstairs the light catches the surface of a glistening slippery formlessness trapped, literally, in wooden stocks.

Entwistle, 6 Cork Street W1 (0171-734 0400) until June 28

□ FILM projected onto an enormous screen stretches across the far wall in the darkened upstairs Nash gallery at the ICA to convey a claustrophobic scene. The interior of a prison cell shows two bunks, one with furniture stacked on top. A continuous humdrum sound is also playing. Darren Almond's idea could be good but atmosphere is lacking. On opening night

the clunk, click, echoing shouts and jangling of keys were played for real in a live link set up between Pentonville prison and the gallery. Now we just have a recording and that notion of a direct line of communication becomes merely suggestive.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171-430 3647) until June 13

□ IMAGE AND FORM at Brunei Gallery is an interesting exhibition of prints, drawings and sculpture from southern Africa and Nigeria. The crowded show ranges across traditional celebrations of national identity at the time of Nigeria's independence, through prints which were a form of common currency under apartheid in South Africa, to bright dreamy lithographs by the Kuru Group, a collective of gatherers in Botswana. The drawings by Marlene Dumas, a South African who now lives in Holland, provide a key to the best aspects of this exhibition. She manages to make a figure exist, quite simply, through drawing.

Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London WC1 (0171-637 2388) until July 25

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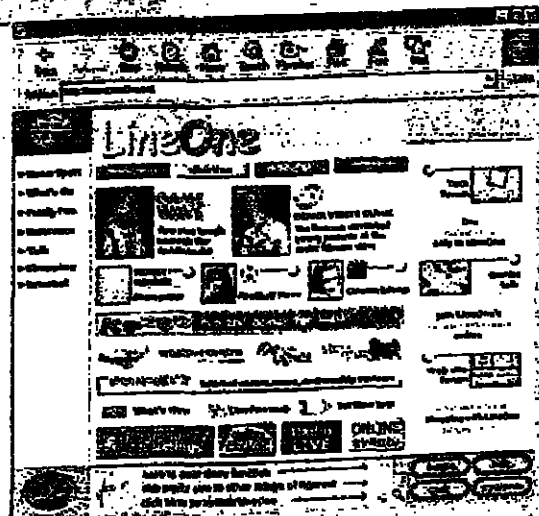
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# Waging war on prejudice

Legislation alone will not halt racially motivated crime, says Gary Slapper

Britain has one of the highest rates of racially motivated crime in Western Europe, according to a recent report by the international organisation Human Rights Watch. The number of annual incidents has trebled over the past seven years, the three-year study shows.

At the same time, breaches of race relations law by employers proliferate, with the problem also reaching into schools, as the recent case of Hytham Hamad shows. Mr Hamad was awarded £4,000 in compensation against one of Britain's oldest public schools after it failed to deal with an appalling and virulent racist crusade against him by other pupils.

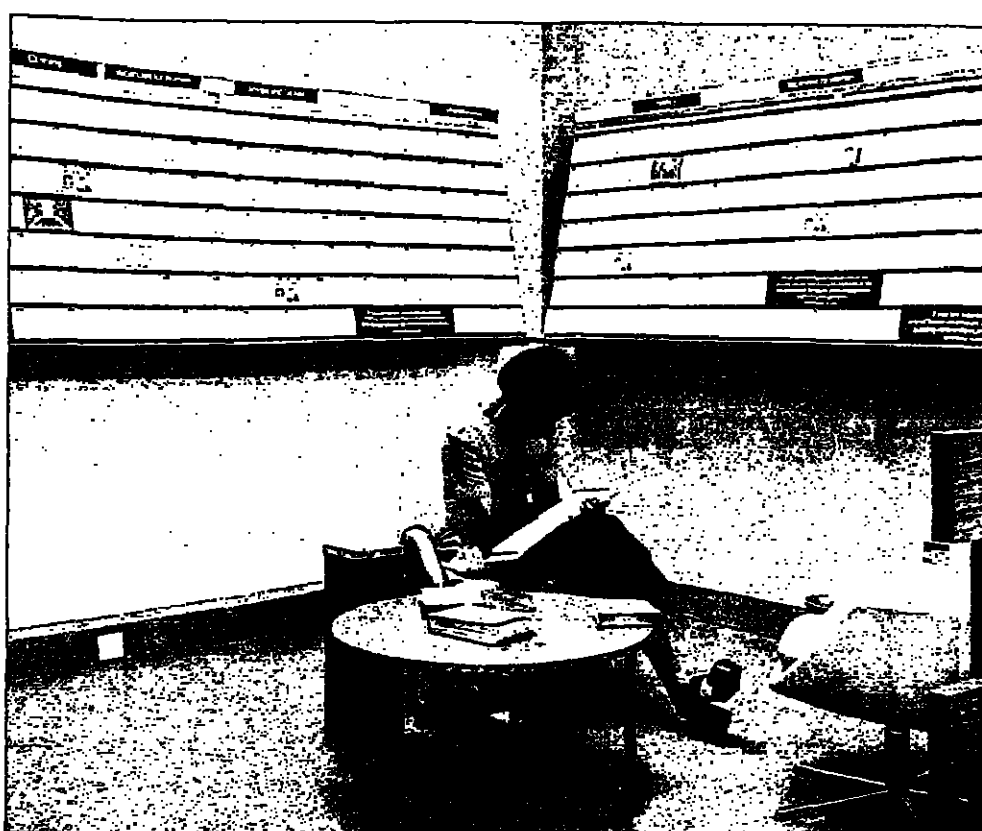
The Government is ready to act and has announced that it will use the Crime and Disorder Bill to legislate for new crimes of "racial harassment" and "racially motivated violence". But how effective can the law be in promoting enlightened attitudes?

The plethora of provisions outlawing racist behaviour already includes the Race Relations Act 1976, which makes it unlawful to discriminate racially, directly or indirectly, against people at work, or, as the Hamad case shows, in places such as schools. The Act has been strengthened by a recent Court of Appeal ruling.

Raymond Jones was frequently taunted with racist remarks and physically abused at the engineering factory in the Midlands where he worked.

In confirming that Mr Jones should receive £5,000 in compensation, Lord Justice Waite stated that narrow conceptions of the law, which would have exculpated the employer from the unauthorised acts of the workers, should be ignored.

The Race Relations Act's purpose was, he observed, to "deter



Looking for a job: black people may come up against subtle barriers, even after getting work

racial... harassment in the workplace by widening the net of responsibility beyond the guilty employees themselves by making all employers additionally liable, subject to a defence that they had taken all reasonable steps to stop the harassment.

Racist conduct can also be tackled with laws such as the Malicious Communications Act 1988 (where letters or other articles have been sent to cause distress or anxiety), and the Football (Offences) Act 1991, which deals with racist chanting at football matches. Councils can use local government legislation to deal with racist tenants; in the 12 months to May 1996, 33 councils in London took successful legal action against tenants who had racially harassed their neighbours. Sixteen councils won 16 possession orders and 47 injunctions.

It is also an offence under the Public Order Act 1986, punishable with up to six months' imprisonment, to use threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct, or to distribute or display any writing, sign or

representation that is threatening, abusive or insulting. A related offence criminalises insulting or threatening or disorderly behaviour, or the use of signs within the sight or hearing of a person likely to cause harassment, alarm or

'Debate and schooling are likely to have more impact than new laws'

distress. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act added yet another offence to the list. This new crime, aimed chiefly at racist agitators, is the intentional causing of harassment, alarm or distress.

It does not, however, specifically mention race — an omission Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, wants to address.

There is also the Public Order Act, with its six offences covering those who commit acts — including possessing materials and presenting plays — that are likely to stir up racial hatred.

On top of all that, the current Code for Crown Prosecutors states that factors which will increase the likelihood of an incident resulting in prosecution include the offence of being "motivated by any form of discrimination against the victim's ethnic or national origin".

Despite all these laws, many people from ethnic minorities still face the major problem of the more transient but injurious incidence of racial harassment — defined by the Commission for Racial Equality as verbal or physical violence towards individuals or groups on grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic origin. It includes attacks on property as well as people.

The police have to keep records of any incidents where a racial motive is apparent. Based on a large-scale survey, the Home Office's British Crime Survey found 130,000 racially motivated incidents in 1991, of which 89,000 were

against Asians and 41,000 against people from black groups. These included 52,000 threats, 26,000 acts of vandalism and 32,000 assaults. It appears that such incidents are greatly under-reported or under-recorded by the police, whose records for 1995-96 show 12,222 racial incidents.

Just how far any new offence of racially motivated crime can act as a deterrent to racist thugs is open to question. What is clear is that in the time that this battery of civil and criminal racist offences has been created, the phenomenon has grown alarmingly. The Human Rights Watch report focuses not only on the thousands of assaults, but also on 14 racist murders committed between 1991 and 1994, and the deaths in custody of ten black people.

When laws first came in to curtail racist conduct, they were treated sceptically by the judiciary. Where there was any doubt about whether a provision applied, the personal freedom of racists to discriminate or insult prevailed.

In 1974, Anthony Sherrington had been refused a drink in a dockers' club in Preston, Lancashire, with the words "We do not serve coloured people". Mr Sherrington was an associate member of the club and the question was whether such members (there were about a million) were "a section of the public" that the law said could not be discriminated against. The House of Lords said they were not, ruling in favour of the racist club.

The attitude of the judiciary has progressed since then, with the previous Lord Chancellor reaffirming the need for judicial sensitivity on matters of race and religion, and cautioning trial judges who made racist remarks.

Judicial attitudes aside, fear within ethnic minorities remains. A recent survey for the Home Office found that 38 per cent of Asians were very worried about being the victims of racial attacks. Public debate and education are likely to have more of an impact than anything achievable by throwing yet more law at the problem.

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

Edward Fennell predicts a boom in legal work

## Road to riches if all goes to plan

What will the new Government do to housing and planning laws? As protesters prepare for a housing battle over plans for a proposed new town in the heart of Hampshire, the annual Cities International Conference comes to London this week. Seen by many as the most influential forum on urban management and development, it is a lawyers' honeypot and a prime talking point will be the effect on planning and development of the new Labour administration.

There is a consensus among top planning lawyers that Labour will bring a new pragmatism to planning decisions. Housing will be the big issue and according to Margaret Casely-Hayford of solicitors Denton Hall it will be "John Selwyn Gummer-with-realism".

The Denton Hall view, shared by many other leading planning lawyers, is that the previous Government's commitment to putting 75 per cent of new housing on brownfield sites is "unimplementable". Instead, if the target of 4.4 million houses is to be achieved, there is bound to be considerable pressure to go for greenfield sites.

This is where much of the work for planning lawyers will come from. Nicholas Taylor of the solicitors Berwin Leighton has been engaged for some time on the development of a new "city" at Ebbsfleet, part of the Thames Gateway in Kent. He emphasises the importance of Labour's requirements for the integration of jobs, transport, leisure and homes to achieve "sustainability".

However, he also expects that a number of conflicts will arise from this which will need to be sorted out by lawyers. In particular, the preference by Labour to leave more decision-making to local councils may lead to problems if councillors resist new proposals on "not in my backyard" principles.

David Cooper of Gouldens, rated as one of the top planning lawyers in London, says: "We're a nation of Nimby's and that's how I make my money." The built-in kneejerk reaction to any development constantly spawns new objections, and increases demands for lawyers' services. Mr Cooper is wondering whether the new masters of Whitehall will reduce the number of "call-ins" and whether they really will allow more

decisions to be taken locally. Typical of the kind of dilemma that is likely to arise concerns the development of wind power. David Goodman of the solicitors Hammond Suddards has developed a significant wind farm practice and has learnt that there tends to be huge opposition to this kind of development, benign as it may be as a renewable energy resource.

Clients such as National Windpower and PowerGen are interested in developing sites but the public and councils tend not to like them. Environmentally good but unpopular with some of the electors, wind farms embody the poison pill of future planning decisions which Labour must ingest.

Mr Goodman believes that transport too will remain a chronic problem. The need to ensure that when new settlements are developed they are properly served by road and rail links could mean that battles over new development will be even more protracted as councils fight developers not just over the new building but the infrastructure as well.

To deal with these cases he believes that action must be taken to reduce the length of the legal wrangles. "We need innovative solutions," he says. "For example, I would be interested in the creation of some kind of alternative dispute resolution system."

Meanwhile, there is still the legacy of the past to be dealt with. Nicholas Taylor at Berwin Leighton is waiting for a decision on the Birmingham northern relief road and there are also a number of out-of-town shopping centre proposals still in the pipeline.

All of these uncertainties are sure to be good for lawyers. Denton Hall has brought together its planners with its public law specialists to create an integrated team. This offers considerable potential given the increasing importance, for example, of public finance initiatives in the development of roads.

Stephen Ashworth of Denton Hall insists that lawyers must also act as business advisers to their clients in this field. The availability of structural funds and other sources of financial incentives means that lawyers can act as midwives to the schemes which might otherwise never get off the ground.



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Reporting to the Legal Manager, you will have a high profile role across the commercial aspects of all the company's operations with all its clients - from the initial contracts involved in winning the work to the purchasing contracts (often involving IP areas in IS solutions). Within this dynamic company, your role will encompass all areas of legal work, either within your own purview or project-managing external lawyers.

You will be a solicitor/barrister with at least two years' high quality experience since admission, best of all in IP or commercial contracts. You will be a clear, concise communicator, with the drive, acumen and interpersonal skills to contribute widely to the commercial management of the company.

This is a high profile role within Vertex, the leading business operations outsourcing company. Career prospects and remuneration are correspondingly excellent.

Please send a CV to Malcolm Hooper at Howgate Sable & Partners, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester M3 2LF. Tel: 0161 839 2000, Fax: 0161 839 0064, quoting ref: T482E. Or alternatively apply through our web site at <http://www.topjobs.co.uk/howgate>

For more information on Vertex visit our web site at <http://www.vertex.co.uk>. Equal consideration will be given to all applicants irrespective of sex, race, creed or disability.

**vertex**

0171 523 3828



1520

TUESDAY JUNE 3 1997

**THEATRE**

Aristophanes is turned into Glaswegian-style comedy as the Gate stages *The Birds*

**fun**

CHRISTINE



**Titmuss Sainer Dechert**

## HEAD OF BANKING

Our Banking Group is responsible for giving transactional support and advice to several well-known lenders, as well as borrowers, on a wide range of finance matters.

At Titmuss Sainer Dechert, as a result of our union with the US law firm Dechert Price & Rhoads, we enjoy all the benefits of:

- Working in a medium sized full service City firm.
- The support of over 500 lawyers in ten offices in the US and Europe.
- Doing high quality UK and international work.

Now we need someone to lead our Banking Group through its next stage of development. The ideal candidate will be a bright and ambitious senior assistant or young partner in an established banking practice, who is ready to take on the challenge of team management and practice development. Technical know-how, marketing flair and leadership skills are prerequisites.



If you want to find out more, please contact Greg Abrahams or Alison Jacobs in complete confidence on 0171 405 6062 (0171 731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

## European Regulatory Lawyer

### International Investment Bank

Goldman Sachs' reputation as one of the world's leading investment banking and securities firms is built upon the skills, creativity and dedication of our people. It is our goal to recruit the best person for every job.

Due to the continuing expansion of our activities in Europe and the fundamental changes in the regulation of financial services currently taking place across the EU, we now wish to make an additional London-based appointment in the Legal and Government Affairs Department.

We are seeking to recruit a lawyer to assist with co-ordination of European legal and regulatory monitoring and analysis covering both Brussels and EU member state developments relevant to all areas of the firm's business. You will report to the firm's General Counsel and work closely with the senior European regulatory legal adviser. Your principal responsibilities will include providing advice and information regarding European legal and regulatory developments; day-to-day monitoring/management of computerised survey, local counsel and other information sources; and assisting with European government affairs and lobbying work. In addition, you

will assist in handling legal/regulatory issues relating to the firm's European offices, particularly Milan and Paris.

Candidates with 3-5 years general commercial or financial experience in a leading law firm, or relevant experience within a major financial institution are preferred. Knowledge and experience of European law would be advantageous but not essential.

Compensation for the role will be competitive and will reflect our normal investment banking practice.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a covering letter and full curriculum vitae, to our Managing Consultants, Geraldine Hetherington or Nicola Ross, In-House Legal Recruitment Consultants, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk



## QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

**JUNIOR MEDIA 0-2 YEARS** To £35,000 + Bens International media company in London seeks junior corporate commercial lawyer looking for a move into the media arena. The role will involve a range of commercial issues including IP, employment and specialist media contracts. You must be robust and outgoing with a desire to move into this environment. Ref: TC39980

**IT/TELECOMS** South East To £Excellent + Bens International media company with a bias on telecommunications and IT side is sought by large telecoms company to handle contractual arrangements with customers and suppliers and to provide legal advice and support to the company across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Ideally looking between 3 and 7 years. Excellent first in-house position. Ref: TC40077

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** To £50,000 + Bens Major performance management consulting company focusing on executive benefits and share schemes seeks a lawyer with this background with between 0 and 3 years' experience. Will look at barristers or solicitors who will need a strong general commercial background or tax and revenue law experience. No need to have had a great deal of employee benefits work. Must be willing to specialise in this area. Very good long term prospects. Ref: TC40044

**SENIOR OIL & GAS** Central London To £Excellent Oil and gas lawyer with between 4 and 7 years' experience gained either in private practice or in-house is sought by this major well known company to undertake a pivotal role within its legal team. Excellent and broad ranging background a must, together with an outgoing personality and a sense of humour. Ref: TC40409

**FINANCIAL SERVICES** To £75,000 + Bens Regulatory services division of leading investment management group seeks experienced financial services lawyer. The regulatory services division comprises legal, compliance, and company secretary teams, which take a proactive co-ordinating role in the development of the group and its products. A great opportunity to provide legal and project management support to a high profile finance organisation. Ref: TC38207

**EMPLOYMENT** To £50,000 plus Bens Pivotal role for ambitious employment lawyer to join a major PLC in the engineering sector. As a member of the legal department you will specialise in non-contentious employment matters as well as other commercial matters. You must be proactive, confident and able to find solutions for your clients. This is an excellent opportunity to move in-house and continue to specialise in employment. Ref: TC39845

For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Murrell, Michelle McGregor or Sarah David (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-442 0841 or 0171-792 0475 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



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## first class corporate lawyer to join the media revolution

Our media & communications department is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary team of company, commercial and litigation lawyers with extensive experience of the film, television, publishing, IT and communications industries. Our client base includes domestic and international terrestrial and satellite broadcasters, film and television production houses, publishers and information service providers.

We now have a key vacancy for a talented 3-5 year qualified corporate lawyer to join us. We are looking for first class corporate finance/M&A experience, technical excellence, natural interpersonal skills and a keen sense of commercial awareness. An interest in the media sector is necessary, but practical experience of it is not.

For outstanding corporate lawyers yearning to give their careers more focus, this represents a great opportunity. You will be given every opportunity to develop your career as a transactional lawyer at the forefront of this exciting industry sector.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants, Jonathan Brenner or Andrew Golding, on 0171-523 3838 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk

ZARAK  
MACRAE  
BRENNER



## The Solicitor to the Departments of Health and Social Security

### TRAINEE SOLICITORS

£14,407 - £15,791 (London)  
£13,242 - £14,623 (National)



As a new initiative the Solicitor is offering a two year practical training courses for Trainee Solicitors (traineeships) starting September 1997. The training period is a fixed term appointment for two years. Exceptionally, subject to staffing needs and performance, successful candidates may be offered a permanent post but this is not guaranteed.

The Office of the Solicitor, part of the Department of Social Security, provides a comprehensive range of legal services to the Departments of Health and Social Security, and their executive agencies, on a nationwide basis. In addition to its principal office at New Court in central London, there are Area Legal Offices in Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle, Stanmore and Sutton. There are likely to be four traineeships based in London (which for this purpose includes Stanmore and Sutton) and one each at Birmingham, Cardiff and Liverpool.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24th June 1997), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Innovation Court, New Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (24 hours), or fax 01256 383786/383787. Please quote reference B3336

The DSS is an equal opportunities employer. We operate a guaranteed interview for people with disabilities

You will be provided with training and experience in a range of legal work. The topics will include in all cases civil litigation, criminal litigation and employment law. In relation to the traineeships based in London, additional topics will be commercial law, legislation and advice.

We are looking for people with intelligence and excellent communication skills. Although a healthy academic background is required, other factors such as good interpersonal skills and initiative are equally important.

You must hold at least an upper second class degree in any discipline, if you have pursued a course of full-time study, and you must expect to complete the Legal Practice Course in June 1997. You must satisfy certain nationality requirements.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCED CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS

A & L Goodbody, Ireland's largest legal firm specialises in corporate and commercial law. Our caseload includes major national and international transactions. In support of our continued growth, we wish to make a number of new appointments in our London and Dublin offices.

These appointments are long-term career opportunities, likely to be of interest to ambitious and experienced corporate / commercial solicitors.

### LONDON OFFICE:

Our London office requires a solicitor with at least four years' P.Q.E. in corporate / commercial law. The successful candidate will have excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to take responsibility for a varied and challenging caseload.

### DUBLIN OFFICE:

We wish to appoint a number of solicitors with at least two years' P.Q.E. in corporate and commercial law. Candidates should be highly motivated individuals with strong analytical skills, plenty of creativity and a head for lateral thinking.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and individual achievement.

For an informal and confidential discussion on any of these positions, please contact James Grennan in our London office at 0171 929 2425.

Applications marked "Strictly Personal - Reference JGG" should be addressed to:

**A & L GOODBODY**  
S O L I C I T O R S

Pinnacle House, 23-26 St. Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8HL

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 13th June. Interviews will be held in our London office.



# The capability behind the name



**Donne Mileham & Haddock**

## SENIOR CORPORATE LAWYER

(Immediate Partnership Prospects)

(5+ YEARS' PQE)

Donne Mileham & Haddock, well established as one of the leading firms in the South East, continues to expand, particularly in the commercial and institutional sectors. There has been a significant increase in the firm's international work.

We are now at a crucial stage of our growth and are seeking to appoint a dynamic, client-orientated corporate lawyer to become an integral part of this high profile commercial client department.

Ideally, you will have at least 5 years' ppe from a leading City/Regional firm with a broad exposure to corporate finance matters. You will have the ability to develop existing contacts and create new opportunities whilst managing the corporate team.

Work in the corporate team involves a comprehensive range of commercial projects including takeovers, mergers & acquisitions, MBOs, Stock Exchange floatations, franchises and corporate taxation.

At Donne Mileham & Haddock we offer a quality of life which has already attracted ex City lawyers, who now enjoy the benefits of working outside the City while continuing to undertake City type work.

We can offer you responsibility, new opportunities and high quality work coupled with excellent partnership prospects and a competitive remuneration package.



For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants Seamus Hoar or Sarah David on 0171-405 6062 (0171-403 5727 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



## APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of Circuit Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to The Queen for appointment to the Circuit Bench to fill vacancies arising between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 1999.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or county courts for a period of ten years. They should normally be aged between 45 and 60 on 1 April 1998 and have served in the office of Recorder (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment as a Circuit Judge) for a period of 2 years prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will recommend for appointment the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 8983 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Circuit Bench Appointments (JAD1)  
Lord Chancellor's Department  
Selborne House  
54/60 Victoria Street  
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 27 June 1997.

## NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC LEGAL STUDIES

### Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Law

(3 Posts)

£13,482 - £27,714 pa

Nottingham Law School is one of the country's leading and most successful Law Schools. Its work is centred around both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, and the legal practice course (LPC). The Law School is seeking to appoint new staff to teach on its degree programmes, and would welcome applications from those with academic and/or professional qualifications.

For an informal discussion, candidates may contact Louise Thornton on (0115) 9486141.

An application form and further details are available from Personnel Services, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU. Tel: (0115) 9486522 (24 hour answering service). Post Ref No: L0292/TIM. Closing date: 20 June 1997.

For all vacancies see our Internet page <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/personnel>

CVs will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form. We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.



## THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

### is looking for an OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR EASTERN EUROPE

The Motion Picture Association represents seven major U.S. film and television studios. The MPA European Office located in Brussels, Belgium is looking for an executive to join its Anti-Piracy Department.

Responsibilities will include:

- assessing the legal structure in national markets to protect copyrights;
- developing market profiles concerning the extent of copyright infringement;
- organising local industry to establish national associations for the protection of copyrights;
- working with national associations to develop annual business plans and budgets and supervising their implementation;
- lobbying national governments to achieve greater copyright protection.

Candidates should have 3-5 years experience in political or economic consultancy, in an international trade association, or in related legal practice. Legal qualification or experience, particularly in the field of copyright, would be a definite advantage. The position requires fluent written and oral English. Additional languages, especially Eastern European, would be useful. Salary is competitive.

Please send your CV together with a writing sample to:  
Ms Anne-Line Bruneel, MPA  
270-272 Avenue de Tervuren, B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

## An Opportunity in Banking Law Field of specialisation: accounting and banking supervisory law Berlin-based

The

### Association of German Public Sector Banks

is looking for a jurist specialising in banking law. Applicants should currently be working for a British or American bank, have experience in British/US and German law, mainly in the field of accounting and international banking supervision. German should be native language or first foreign language. Applications from women candidates are particularly encouraged. Age: around 40. First based in Bonn, later (after 1st January 1999) in Berlin.

The Association of German Public Sector Banks is one of the German banking industry associations, with offices in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels. It represents over 50 banks, which together account for roughly one-quarter of the combined balance sheet of all German banks.

Please respond by calling Dr Bernd Luethje at +49-2 28-81 92 200 (Bonn) during office hours, Monday to Friday (don't send written application). Evenings or weekends: call +49-21 04-5 34 48 (Mettmann) at a reasonable hour.

## JOHNSON STOKES & MASTER

- Solicitors in Asia since 1863 -

CHINA HONG KONG THAILAND VIETNAM

Johnson Stokes & Master is Hong Kong's largest law firm and one of South East Asia's leading commercial law practices with more than 170 lawyers and a total staff of over 800.

We are seeking a solicitor with at least 3 years post qualification experience in general commercial/banking work to join our established Vietnam practice. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will initially be based in the Ho Chi Minh City office.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for the right candidate and excellent career prospects and an attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Informal enquiries are welcome and may be made to Ms Joanna Knight on (852) 2843-4523. To apply, please send your CV to Ms Joanna Knight, Human Resources Manager, Johnson Stokes & Master, 17/F Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong. Confidential fax: (852) 2530-2503.

## SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS ARE THE WAY AHEAD. THE TOP 100 LAW FIRMS ARE AWARE OF THIS . . . ARE YOU?

### IP/IT LITIGATION

Leading City firm seeks 2-6 year qualified solicitor/barrister with contentious IP/IT experience to support the litigation/insolvency department. Contract to start as soon as possible for about 3 months. Ref: 40635

### NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part or full-time. Ref: 39613

### DERIVATIVES

Investment house seeks a solicitor/barrister with at least 1 years' ppe in ISDA documentation and standard form agreements. Contract to start immediately for 6 months, with the possibility of a permanent position. Ref: 40463

### DEFENDANT PERSONAL INJURY

Legal executive, with at least 2 years' ppe, required by regional firm in their Thames valley office. Candidates would be working within the RIA team undertaking a heavy workload. Ref: 40577

### COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to assist within very busy property department of City firm. Experience from similar City environment essential. To start immediately for about 3 months. Ref: 25184

### COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Major regional firm needs a solicitor for their office in the South West. Up-to-date corporate experience essential, with ideally 2+ years' ppe. Start as soon as possible, to assist whilst permanent search continues. Ref: 40598

### IT/TELECOMS

Newly established firm requires a solicitor/barrister with 2-10 years' ppe in IT/Telecoms. Recent experience necessary from either an in-house or private practice background. Immediate start. Ref: 40412

### EMPLOYMENT

Small, but well regarded City firm, requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister with a mixture of contentious and non-contentious employment experience. Immediate start, to assist extremely busy department. Ref: 39757

Would you like to know more about short-term contracts and the way in which they work? If so please call Emma Anderson or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.



SPL is a QD Company

## EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

### CORPORATE INSURANCE

To £25,000  
This all-round City firm has an all-round excellent reputation, and its corporate insurance work is particularly well-known. This makes it a very good move for a senior corporate insurance lawyer - either a senior assistant or partner with following - who is keen to make immediate partnership. Ref: T40538

### DEBT CAPITAL MARKETS

To £100,000+  
An exciting opportunity to help this leading international law firm build up its debt capital markets work. You will need to come from a recognized practice and have a thorough knowledge of all aspects of creating and documenting debt capital markets transactions. Emerging markets experience would help. Ref: T14448

### CORPORATE TAX

To £45,000  
If you want to work on some of the biggest international transactions, then look no further than this top 10 City firm that heads all the corporate tables. The best work, quality training and an established career path guaranteed to corporate tax lawyers with 2-3 years' ppe at good practices. Ref: T38212

### VAT

To £65,000  
This is a superb opportunity for a senior tax lawyer with 5+ years' ppe to become only this top 15 City firm's second VAT specialist. The promotion possibilities are obviously great in such a position, while you can be sure of working on some of the biggest and best corporate transactions in the City. Ref: T40188

### EC/COMPETITION

To £60,000  
Work for one of the City's best EC/competition practices in either London or Brussels at this top 10 firm. You will enjoy a very full range of high-profile matters and could also gain experience of regulatory work for utilities if you want to. You will have 3-5 years' ppe and perhaps some language skills. Ref: T39921

### COMMERCIAL/IT

To £29,000  
A chance to shine in one of the City's best-known niche commercial practices, and you will be very well rewarded if you do. You will be qualifying this autumn and the work will involve an international mix of commercial, IT and computer matters. You will ideally have some French and/or German ability. Ref: T40478

### EMPLOYMENT

To £45,000  
A well-respected employment practice at a leading medium-sized City firm: a good mix of contentious and non-contentious work: the chance to make rapid progress towards partnership - all in all, just what an employment lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe needs to take his or her career forward. Ref: T40401

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jacobs, Sarah David or Seamus Hoar (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-731 5699 or 0181-7899 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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TO ADVERTISE CALL  
0171 680 6828

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX:  
0171 782 7899

## CLEARY, GOTTlieb, STEEN &amp; HAMILTON

Our London office, which was established in 1971, is primarily involved in international finance and M&A work of all kinds and advises multinational companies, investment and commercial banks and other participants in the world financial markets.

We are seeking English qualified solicitors with between 2-4 years' post qualification experience in banking, tax or capital markets work to join our English team.

The London office currently has approximately 30 lawyers, who are qualified in a number of jurisdictions, principally in New York and England.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hoar or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171-405-6662 (0171-403-5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax: 0171-831-6394.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL  
PARTNER

East Midlands  
To £Six Figures

"Long established and forward thinking" might best describe this leading East Midlands firm. It enjoys an outstanding reputation as a regional heavyweight with a diverse client base. The partnership is united and mercurial with an innovative remuneration structure and the full backing of a friendly and dedicated staff.

## WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Whether you are an existing Partner seeking a fresh challenge or a senior associate looking to make your mark, this is an exciting and rare opportunity to take a lead role in the development of the corporate/commercial practice. Well versed in M&A, corporate finance and commercial work, you should have the dynamism and practice development skills to get the best out of an existing client base that is full of potential.

You will receive a highly attractive remuneration package (which could include a car) and the full support of the partners to develop your practice. The sky is the limit both financially and professionally.

Has your  
Career  
Plateaued?  
Start  
Climbing...



To find out more in complete confidence please contact William Cook or Chris Cayley (both qualified lawyers) on 0121 212 9555 (0121 707 1371 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Midlands, Cornwall Buildings, 45 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3QR. Confidential fax: 0121 212 9777.



Legal Adviser - Litigation  
Central London

Our client, Sedgwick Group plc, is a world leader in risk consultancy, insurance and reinsurance broking, employee benefits and financial services. Operating from more than 260 offices in 63 countries, the Group continues to develop both organically and by acquisition, broadening its business base while extending its global coverage.

A new and exciting opportunity has now arisen within the Legal Department's litigation team at the Group's City head office. Suitable candidates will have the following credentials:

- between 2 and 4 years' post-qualified experience either in private practice or in-house
- a litigation background which has involved insurance work, ideally coverage or broking-related cases
- intellectual capacity - which will include the ability to think creatively as well as logically
- commercial insight and a talent for harnessing legal techniques to practical effect
- a confident yet amenable personality, at ease working both with little supervision and in a team context

This appointment represents a rare chance for a litigator to join a top-class legal department within a blue-chip organisation. The role will offer variety and responsibility, with management potential, and command a competitive salary, car and benefits package.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Reuter Simkin, Legal Recruitment Consultants. To discuss the opportunity in complete confidence please telephone Philip Boynton LLM, quoting reference 36837. Alternatively, send your CV to him at the address below.

Reuter Simkin  
5 Bream's Buildings  
Chancery Lane  
London EC4A 3DY  
Tel: 0171 405 4161  
Fax: 0171 242 1261  
E-Mail: rs@psd.co.uk  
Internet: www.psd.co.uk



## Sinclair Roche &amp; Temperley

## THE FAR EAST AND YOU!

Sinclair Roche & Temperley is a major international law firm, specialising in shipping, trade and transport, with offices in London, Bucharest and the Far East. Business expansion in our thriving Asia Pacific offices - particularly in the areas of shipping and international trade - requires us to seek four focused and talented lawyers to join our dynamic teams in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore. You could be part of this growing and successful firm.

## HONG KONG

You are a lawyer 4-6 years PQE. You have a broad range of dry shipping experience and good practice development skills. You are interested in opportunities to travel - from a Hong Kong office base - and want to be part of our fast growing China practice. Partnership prospects are important to you.

## SHANGHAI

You are interested in practice development and are already a successful dry shipping lawyer. 4-5 years PQE. You want to be part of our unique and exciting Shanghai practice and contribute actively to its future development. You are interested in and are sensitive to other cultures. You are seeking early partnership.

## HONG KONG

As 1-2 year PQE lawyer with good commercial litigation experience, you want to work in Hong Kong. You may have some dry shipping experience, although this is not essential. You are keen to learn and gain first rate litigation experience.

## SINGAPORE

As a newly qualified (September '97) solicitor you are looking for an exciting start to your legal career. You have made a commitment to a career in litigation and are interested in shipping and international trade issues. You are keen to learn and gain first rate experience.

We are always interested to hear from candidates with linguistic ability, particularly Cantonese or Mandarin.

An excellent salary and benefits package is offered for each of the above positions. If you are bright, with an excellent academic background, self motivated and ambitious; if you want to work in a friendly, supportive environment where you are encouraged to reach your full potential, then apply to us. Please write, enclosing your CV to: Dawn Morgan, Head of Human Resources, Sinclair Roche and Temperley, Royex House, 5 Aldermanbury Square, London EC2V 7LE. Tel: 0171 452 4130. (Closing date for applications: 11 July 1997.)



## Amsterdam

## £ Excellent

adidas is one of the world's leading sports brands. Enjoying record levels of sales and profitability and having introduced advanced footwear technologies and dynamic international marketing strategies, the Group is undergoing unprecedented expansion and development. Within this fast moving environment, adidas has established its international legal department in Amsterdam, providing a comprehensive commercial and intellectual property legal service to the global business.

## Commercial Counsel

Reporting to the General Counsel, you will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, advising on international transactions, particularly joint ventures, acquisitions, disposals and complex high value commercial contracts. You will have 4-6 years' relevant experience gained in practice or industry. Linguistic ability and experience of other jurisdictions would be useful.

As these are key business-facing roles, each position requires exceptional communication skills. On offer is an excellent remuneration, benefits and relocation package and the opportunity to make a significant contribution to a dynamic, fast-moving and successful business.

Interested candidates please send CVs to Daniel Richards at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5LN or fax 0171 831 6662 or telephone him on 0171 269 2234. This assignment is being handled exclusively and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Michael Page.

## Intellectual Property

Reporting to the Head of Intellectual Property, you will be required to handle all aspects of the Group's trade mark and design portfolio and will educate and counsel the Group on the worldwide legal protection of its famous marks. You will be a solicitor or qualified trade mark attorney with about 2-4 years' experience, preferably with some exposure to contentious IP law.



Michael Page Legal  
Specialists in Legal Recruitment

Commercial and Legal Adviser  
CONSTRUCTION

The Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA) requires a person with knowledge of construction contracts and disputes, preferably with a legal qualification, to advise members on contractual problems and general commercial and legal matters.

Work in an advisory and secretarial capacity for committees will be involved; also visiting regional meetings of the Association, and possibly attending negotiations on behalf of the industry in European matters.

Emphasis will be applied to experience in contractual, commercial and legal aspects of the construction industry. Salary negotiable. The successful applicant will be joining an existing team of four in the Commercial and Legal Department of this leading trade association.

Applications, in confidence, to ;  
Roderick Pettigrew, Head of Commercial & Legal Department,  
Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association,  
ESCA House, 34 Palace Court, Bayswater, London W2 4JG.



HVCA is the recognised trade and employers association for heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration contractors.

It is a founding member of the Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group and the Constructors Liaison Group, the voice of the specialist contracting sector.







RUGBY UNION

# Lions pack gets down to business

FROM DAVID HANDS IN PRETORIA

THE players may have a distinct say in the running of this British Isles tour of South Africa, but Jim Telfer, the forwards coach, was still cracking the whip at Loftus Versfeld Stadium here yesterday. For the first time on tour, the forwards who will play Mpumalanga tomorrow spent a lengthy period working the compressed-air scrummaging machine that accompanies the Lions everywhere.

The significance of the scrum, which has declined at home over the past decade, has never lost its magic for South African sides and the Lions have been surprised by the intensity with which their

lead the Lions tomorrow, said. "The bone of Mpumalanga's effort on Wednesday will be in the scrums, and we have to break that."

The Lions also played a dead ball to suggestions that John Bentley, the Newcastle wing, was guilty of eye-gouging James Small during the Western Province game. The television cameras recorded Bentley going very high into a tackle on the Springbok wing, who emerged clutching his face and refused to acknowledge Bentley's proffered hand at the end, but the incident will be taken no further.

Small claimed that the Englishman "fingered" him in the eye and described his action as underhand. "John Bentley came to me when he read that disgraceful comment by Small in the paper and said it was absolute nonsense," Fran Cotton, the tour manager, said.

The departure of the injured Paul Grayson for home last night left the Lions happy that they could restore Neil Jenkins to his club position of stand-off half tomorrow and give Nick Beal a run at full back. Beal's tendinitis troubled him less yesterday and he played a full part in training, alongside Matt Dawson and Paul Wallace, who will make their first full appearances of the tour.

The South Africa selectors have dropped three established players — Hennie le Roux, Kobus Wiese and Henry Tromp — in naming a squad of 27 for the match against Tonga on June 10 and the three internationals with the Lions. Mark Andrews has still to prove his fitness.

BRITISH ISLES XV (v Mpumalanga, tomorrow): N. Beal, I. Evans, A. Barmann, W. Greenwood, T. Underwood, N. Jenkins, A. Dawson, T. Smith, J. Wood, P. Wallace, R. Warrington, G. Wex, J. Davidson, N. Black, T. Rhodes. Replacement: J. Gascott, C. Townsend, A. Healey, M. Regan, D. Young, S. Cunnell.

SOUTH AFRICA (v Tonga, Cape Town, June 10): A. Joubert, J. T. Small, J. C. Mulder, E. Lubbe, A. H. Snyman, H. W. Hendrick, J. H. van der Westhuizen, J. P. du Rand, A. E. Dronke, A. C. Gansley, A. G. Venter, K. Otto, F. J. van Heerden, R. J. Kruger, G. H. Teichmann, R. P. Erasmus, R. G. Bennett, S. Wessels, W. Swaneepoel, J. J. Steyn, J. Dalton, D. F. Theron. Additional squad members: M. Hurter, M. Andrews, J. Erasmus, J. Smit, P. Montgomery, P. Muller.

## Diamond's early call

Steve Diamond, the Sale hooker, will play for England against Cuyo in Mendoza today, three hours after arriving in Argentina as a replacement for Phil Greening, who was concussed in the first international on Saturday.

ENGLAND XV (v Cuyo): M. Madsen (Scrummer), D. Riech (Sole), M. Allen (Scrummer), J. Bannister (Sole), D. O'Leary (Halfback), A. King (Wing), A. Gonsall (Wing), R. Hardwick (Wing), S. Diamond (Sole), W. Green (Wing), S. O'Connell (Sole), D. Baldwin (Sole), D. Greenwood (Wing), R. Jenkins (Halfback), C. Sheehy (Wing, captain).

opponents scrumming, and by the fact that the new laws create twice the number of scrums as there are lineouts.

In none of the three matches has the Lions pack imposed itself, and it took all of Robert Howley's considerable skill to convert poor scrummage possession into useable ball against Western Province on Saturday. Hence the 45 minutes and some 30 scrums against the £8,000 machine, which recorded a substantial improvement on the work of two weeks ago.

"We identified the problem on Saturday and went some way to correcting it during the match," Tim Rodber, who will



Dennis Rodman, of Chicago Bulls, collects a rebound during the first match of the seven-game National Basketball Association finals against Utah Jazz in Chicago on Sunday. The Bulls, who have taken the first four times since 1991, won the match 84-82.

## FOOTBALL

# Leonhardsen joins Liverpool

LIVERPOOL have completed the signing of Oyvind Leonhardsen from Wimbledon for £4 million (David Maddock writes). Leonhardsen, the Norway midfielder, broke off from duty for his country to fly to Merseyside yesterday to sign a four-year contract worth more than £1 million.

The transfer reunites Leonhardsen with Stig Inge Bjornebye and Bjorn Tore Kvarme, who were teammates at Rosenborg, the Norwegian club, three seasons ago. "It is a dream move for me," Leonhardsen, 26, said. "My favourite players were Kevin Keegan and Kenny

DalGLISH and Liverpool was the one club in England that I have longed to play for."

Benfica have completed the signing of Scott Minto, the Chelsea defender, who has come to the end of his contract at Stamford Bridge, but Arsenal appear to have failed in their attempt to sign Marc Overmars, the Holland international winger, who seems bound for Real Betis, of Spain.

Will van Hanegem, a former World Cup finalist with Holland, had talks yesterday with Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, about the vacant managerial position at Goodison. Rumours persist, however, that George Gra-

ham will be asked to leave Leeds United to take over.

Brighton are likely to play the first few games of next season at Gillingham after all. The club's new board has been unable to reach an agreement with the Hove Greyhound Stadium but negotiations are taking place with Crawley Council with a view to using the town's new Broadfield Stadium.

Dick Knight, the Brighton chairman-elect, said: "Nobody wants to go to Gillingham but we will if we have to, to meet our League obligations. We will bring the club back to Brighton as soon as humanly possible."

## FOR THE RECORD

<b>ATHLETICS</b>	<b>BOXING</b>	<b>SPANISH LEAGUE</b>
TORONTO Challenge of Champions (150m): C. Bazzani (Can) 14.99sec. M. Johnson (US) 15.01.	UNCLASH, Connecticut International Boxing Federation flyweight champion, ship, M. Johnson (US) 10/20/94 12/2/95 10/1/96 12/2/97.	Real Madrid 2 (10/20/94) 12/2/95 10/1/96 12/2/97. Valencia 2 (10/20/94) 12/2/95 10/1/96 12/2/97. Barcelona 2 (10/20/94) 12/2/95 10/1/96 12/2/97. Espanyol 2 (10/20/94) 12/2/95 10/1/96 12/2/97.
<b>CRICKET</b>	<b>GLIDING</b>	<b>GOLF</b>
MCC Trophy, First round: Grantham, Rutlandshire 245-7 (141 runs) beat Leicestershire 245-7 (141 runs) by 10 runs.	BIDFORD, National motor gliders handicap: First day (141m) total points: 1. R. W. Jones 141, 2. R. W. Jones 141, 3. R. W. Jones 141, 4. R. W. Jones 141, 5. R. W. Jones 141, 6. R. W. Jones 141, 7. R. W. Jones 141, 8. R. W. Jones 141, 9. R. W. Jones 141, 10. R. W. Jones 141.	DUBLIN, Other Memorial tournament: Leading final scores: 1. J. J. O'Connell 210, 2. J. J. O'Connell 210, 3. J. J. O'Connell 210, 4. J. J. O'Connell 210, 5. J. J. O'Connell 210, 6. J. J. O'Connell 210, 7. J. J. O'Connell 210, 8. J. J. O'Connell 210, 9. J. J. O'Connell 210, 10. J. J. O'Connell 210.
<b>BASEBALL</b>	<b>BASEBALL</b>	<b>BASEBALL</b>
AMERICAN LEAGUE, New York Yankees (Boston) 6-15 (1st) 10-15 (2nd) 10-15 (3rd) 10-15 (4th) 10-15 (5th) 10-15 (6th) 10-15 (7th) 10-15 (8th) 10-15 (9th) 10-15 (10th).	NATIONAL LEAGUE, Atlanta Braves (San Francisco) 6-15 (1st) 10-15 (2nd) 10-15 (3rd) 10-15 (4th) 10-15 (5th) 10-15 (6th) 10-15 (7th) 10-15 (8th) 10-15 (9th) 10-15 (10th).	ST LOUIS, LPGA tournament: Leading final scores: 1. J. J. O'Connell 210, 2. J. J. O'Connell 210, 3. J. J. O'Connell 210, 4. J. J. O'Connell 210, 5. J. J. O'Connell 210, 6. J. J. O'Connell 210, 7. J. J. O'Connell 210, 8. J. J. O'Connell 210, 9. J. J. O'Connell 210, 10. J. J. O'Connell 210.
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>	<b>BASKETBALL</b>
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Finals: Chicago Bulls (Utah Jazz) 84-82.	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Finals: Chicago Bulls (Utah Jazz) 84-82.	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Finals: Chicago Bulls (Utah Jazz) 84-82.
<b>BOWLS</b>	<b>BOWLS</b>	<b>BOWLS</b>
BATH City of Bath Open tournament: Men's Singles, Semi-finals: D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 2. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 3. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 4. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 5. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 6. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 7. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 8. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 9. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 10. D. Bannister (Sole) 141.	BATH City of Bath Open tournament: Men's Singles, Semi-finals: D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 2. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 3. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 4. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 5. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 6. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 7. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 8. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 9. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 10. D. Bannister (Sole) 141.	BATH City of Bath Open tournament: Men's Singles, Semi-finals: D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 2. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 3. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 4. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 5. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 6. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 7. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 8. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 9. D. Bannister (Sole) 141, 10. D. Bannister (Sole) 141.
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL</b>	<b>FOOTBALL</b>
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<b>POOL FORECAST</b>	<b>POOL FORECAST</b>	<b>POOL FORECAST</b>
Saturday, June 7: 1. J. J. O'Connell 210, 2. J. J. O'Connell 210, 3. J. J. O'Connell 210, 4. J. J. O'Connell 210, 5. J. J. O'Connell 210, 6. J. J. O'Connell 210, 7. J. J. O'Connell 210, 8. J. J. O'Connell 210, 9. J. J. O'Connell 210, 10. J. J. O'Connell 210.	Saturday, June 7: 1. J. J. O'Connell 210, 2. J. J. O'Connell 210, 3. J. J. O'Connell 210, 4. J. J. O'Connell 210, 5. J. J. O'Connell 210, 6. J. J. O'Connell 210, 7. J. J. O'Connell 210, 8. J. J. O'Connell 210, 9. J. J. O'Connell 210, 10. J. J. O'Connell 210.	Saturday, June 7: 1. J. J. O'Connell 210, 2. J. J. O'Connell 210, 3. J. J. O'Connell 210, 4. J. J. O'Connell 210, 5. J. J. O'Connell 210, 6. J. J. O'Connell 210, 7. J. J. O'Connell 210, 8. J. J. O'Connell 210, 9. J. J. O'Connell 210, 10. J. J. O'Connell 210.
<b>PRIVATE PRACTICE/IN-HOUSE</b>	<b>PRIVATE PRACTICE/IN-HOUSE</b>	<b>PRIVATE PRACTICE/IN-HOUSE</b>
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: TO £70,000. Pledges said City firm needs lawyers with 2-4 years' experience, though candidates with greater experience will also be considered.	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: TO £70,000. Pledges said City firm needs lawyers with 2-4 years' experience, though candidates with greater experience will also be considered.	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY: TO £70,000. Pledges said City firm needs lawyers with 2-4 years' experience, though candidates with greater experience will also be considered.
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SECURITIES: TO £20,000. International financial group with City HQ seeks securities lawyer. Will work with the front office traders in high level transactional role.	SECURITIES: TO £20,000. International financial group with City HQ seeks securities lawyer. Will work with the front office traders in high level transactional role.	SECURITIES: TO £20,000. International financial group with City HQ seeks securities lawyer. Will work with the front office traders in high level transactional role.
<b>ENERGY - WEST COUNTRY</b>	<b>ENERGY - WEST COUNTRY</b>	<b>ENERGY - WEST COUNTRY</b>
Well known global oil and gas company with UK headquarters in the west of England has an established legal department. They are looking for a company commercial generalist (no previous experience of the energy sector is required) with broad experience of complex commercial transactions and sophisticated negotiation skills.	Well known global oil and gas company with UK headquarters in the west of England has an established legal department. They are looking for a company commercial generalist (no previous experience of the energy sector is required) with broad experience of complex commercial transactions and sophisticated negotiation skills.	Well known global oil and gas company with UK headquarters in the west of England has an established legal department. They are looking for a company commercial generalist (no previous experience of the energy sector is required) with broad experience of complex commercial transactions and sophisticated negotiation skills.

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**CORPORATE FINANCE** TO £40,000  
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CRICKET: VISITING CAPTAIN CALLS OFF RUN CHASE AT NEW ROAD AFTER FALL OF FIFTH WICKET

# Somerset fail to seize fleeting chances

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (10pts) drew with Somerset (10)

TWICE, yesterday, this torpid game offered the suggestion of a positive, natural conclusion that it scarcely deserved. On both occasions, it proved illusory and the draw that had been likely since the pedantic progress of the first two days was agreed with six wickets unused. It ended unmourned, a shoddy advertisement for championship cricket.

As it was Somerset who created both winning openings, their decision to close down the game after tea was disappointingly premature, if symptomatic of a match in which both teams were guilty

of their three aggressors — and when all three were out before tea, they had no heavy artillery for the decisive session.

The pitch played a full part in proceedings. It was stupefyingly slow on the early days. Yesterday, when it quickened up, neither side was capable of holding the initiative.

Mushtaq had a curious match. Doubtless, he will take plenty of wickets this summer once pitches begin to wear but he began his 58th over here with figures of nought for 129. In his next 37 balls he claimed three for 20, dismissing Leatherdale, Solanki and Haynes with balls that surprised, simply by departing from conformity.

Haynes, who is fast making up for the loss of last season to injury, had scored his second half-century of the game when caught at slip off a glove. Worcestershire were then only 233 ahead with more than four hours remaining but Rhodes, the acting captain, came stoutly to the rescue as he has so often down the years. By the time he chose to declare, another hour had passed and the prospects of a decent finish had sharply diminished. To their credit, Somerset initially responded aggressively but their reshuffling of the order was so comprehensive as to be self-defeating.

Burns was out to a shocking stroke, his head in the clouds, but Turner, having already made an unbeaten 83 on Saturday, then made 47 off 34 balls. His second-wicket stand with Lathwell was worth 71 in eight overs of controlled attack but Somerset's platform then collapsed beneath them as three wickets fell on the same score, two of them to the influential Haynes.

Somerset abandoned the chase immediately and Worcestershire, without the injured Newport, had insufficient resources to trouble them as Bowler was content to play out the final two hours of a deeply unsatisfactory match.

Nottinghamshire have turned their attention to Northants. The New Zealand top-order batsman, as they seek to sign an overseas player before they meet Northamptonshire tomorrow. Astle, 25, is contracted to Accrington, the Lancashire League club, whose officials were meeting last night to discuss whether to release him. Nottinghamshire are prepared to pay Accrington compensation.

of unadventurous cricket on an admittedly discouraging pitch.

The bowling of Mushtaq Ahmed and the batting of Rob Turner provided the fleeting promises of the day. In the morning, Mushtaq suddenly found turn and bounce, taking three quick wickets. Had he gone on to extinguish the innings with three more, Somerset's target would have been straightforward.

As it was, they had to depend upon a declaration but, nevertheless, set off in pursuit of 277 in 55 overs with what began as commendable vigour but became misguided bravado. In turn, they promoted Burns, Turner and Rose —



Harden, of Somerset, is bowled comprehensively after failing to make contact when driving at Leatherdale

## Waqar curtails Morris's defiance

By BARNEY SPENDER

CARDIFF (final day of four): Glamorgan (24pts) beat Durham (4) by an innings and eight runs

WITH an admirably civilised eye for timing, Waqar Younis ended Durham's resistance five minutes before lunch to wrap up Glamorgan's second win of the season and launch them to the top of the county championship yesterday.

Whether they will still be there on September 22 remains to be seen, but, on the evidence of their cricket thus far, they certainly ought to be among the leading pack. The key is in the balance of

the side, which sees a powerful batting line-up, including the country's leading run-scorers in Steve James and Hugh Morris, and an attack capable of bowling sides out on all surfaces.

The experience of Steve Watkins and Robert Croft, who took two wickets each yesterday, is now supplemented by the youthful promise of Darren Thomas and Dean Cosker, while the acquisition of Waqar has provided the rapier. He took seven wickets in both innings. Yesterday he took his second-innings contribution to four for 56, his best return so far for his new county, as he collected the

important scalps of Martin Speight and John Morris, although not before the latter had completed his first hundred for Durham since September 1995.

Durham started the day with genuine hopes of survival. On a good pitch, they were 110 runs away from making Glamorgan bat again and they had six wickets in hand, with Morris well set on 84. In the event, however, only he showed the permanence needed to delay what quickly became the inevitable.

In the fourth over, Boiling edged Croft to Cotter at slip, and three overs later a ball from Waqar kept low and crashed into Speight's stumps.

Watkin entered the fray to collect two wickets in successive overs and when the last pair threatened to take the game into the afternoon with a stubborn partnership of 44, Waqar was summoned to complete the job.

Morris showed glimpses of the player he was when he played for England, and if this innings marks a lasting return to form, then Durham, already pleased with Michael Foster's maiden century on Saturday, will take something positive from the game.

Morris's hundred arrived with a short-arm pull off Croft and he raced on to 149 before a flick off Waqar went to Cotter at square leg.

## Captain Ramprakash meets with approval

By PAT GIBSON

LORDS (final day of four): Middlesex (24pts) beat Northamptonshire (3) by an innings and 57 runs

THERE was the odd moment when Mike Gatting adopted his time-honoured teatime pose, hands on hips, elbows jutting, beard bristling below a look that said: "What's going on 'ere, then?" However, once it was over, he had nothing but praise for the way that Mark Ramprakash handled his first match since taking over the Middlesex captaincy.

It could hardly have gone more smoothly. Ramprakash won an important toss that paved the way for three centuries — one for Kallis, the overseas player, one for himself and one for the former captain — and a Middlesex total of 531. Then he had all the time he needed to bowl Northamptonshire out twice for an emphatic victory secured in the second over after lunch.

"I thought he did a tremendous job," Gatting said. "It is always difficult when you first take over because there are so many people offering you all sorts of advice, but he knew what he wanted to do, he worked it out for himself and he went ahead and did it."

It will not always be so straightforward as it was against a Northamptonshire side that fell a long way short of its potential, but there was still plenty to admire about the way Ramprakash handled his bowlers, even yesterday when Northamptonshire still needed 147 to avoid an innings defeat, with only four wickets remaining.

He began with Fraser bowling downwind from the Nursery End and Tufnell operating, unusually for him, with the pavilion at his back, and it was Fraser who broke a stubborn seventh-wicket stand of 52 when he had Snape caught behind. This was Fraser's first wicket of the match, and only his sixth of the season, but, when the new ball was taken, he had to give way to Johnson and Hewitt, who quickly repaid Ramprakash's faith in them.

Johnson struck Capel faultlessly on the left hand before Hewitt had him beautifully picked up at second slip and Johnson had Taylor caught behind. Follett stayed long enough for Ripley to complete a defiant fifty, but then charged so far down the pitch against Tufnell that Brown had time to drop the ball and pick it up again before stumping him.

## Gough cuts Essex down to size

By PAT GIBSON

ILFORD (final day of four): Yorkshire (23pts) beat Essex (6) by two wickets

DARREN GOUGH drove out of Valentine's Park at the wheel of his open-top sports car with a nonchalant air yesterday (Simon Wilde writes). He had just finished a good — and short — day's work by cutting Peter Such to the boundary to seal victory for Yorkshire. Life is unlikely to be as simple as going to Australia later this week.

The match resumed with no scope for carelessness: Yorkshire, on 270 for eight, needed six runs to win. Essex two wickets. The onerous task of bowling the first over fell to Grayson, who conceded two singles, before Silverwood took another single off Such's first ball and Gough hit his second for four.

"It was the best game I have ever played in," David Byas, the Yorkshire captain, said. "A tie would have been a fair result."

## Radford ushers Sussex to comfortable victory

By DEREK HODGSON

THE PARKS (final day of three): Sussex beat Oxford University by nine wickets

SUSSEX's untied side duly completed a comprehensive victory 13 overs after tea, with an hour to spare. Their two young bowlers, Chris Batt and Justin Bates, will have been happy with six and five wickets respectively on what has been a good pitch and a fast outfield. The new batsman, James Pymont, had less opportunity and the only cloud over the match for the visitors was a recurrence of a side strain for James Kirtley, the county's fast-bowling hope, but he will test himself with the second team at Rochester tomorrow.

The University began a sunny but windy morning with a lead of 154. Caps and hats flew and dust swirled across from used pitches. The surface was worn and any hopes that Mark Wagh may have entertained of building a big enough lead for a declaration were dispelled by the early bowling of Batt and Bates.

Batt's height, and a vigorous left-arm angle of attack, made the odd ball bounce awkwardly. Bates was able to

extract turn from the Pavilion end and the net result was the fall of the last five wickets for 67. James Bull was tempted outside the off stump: Chetan Patel was snatched at short leg; Larry Buchanan nicked to second slip — a good catch — and it was left to James Averis and Alex Scrim to prevent a conclusion by mid-afternoon.

The pair added 53 in 15 overs, to which Scrim contributed to. Averis would make a lusty No 8 in most batting orders and as he is averaging 38, he must surely win a promotion before the University match next month. His 42 came off 48 balls and he struck seven fours, a defiant innings in difficult circumstances.

Averis was finally beaten by a drifter from Bates and Sussex set off, with six overs to lunch, needing 227 for victory. Neil Lenham had scored 44 out of 68 when he looked to drive off Wagh and was bowled. Thereafter Toby Radford continued the batting practice that he had enjoyed in the first innings, a task made easier when Patel departed with a side strain. He and Rajesh Rao were unbeaten in a stand of 154 and there was little that the University could do about it.

## Heroics of Hayden just fail to engineer first victory

By JOHN THICKESSE

SOUTHAMPTON (final day of four): Hampshire (7pts) drew with Warwickshire (10)

A WONDERFUL display of stamina and strength by Matthew Hayden seemed to have lined up Hampshire for their first championship win of the season. But with the winning post in his sights, and having been on the field for every minute of a match then 24½ hours old, the 6ft 5in Australian was caught off a skyer attempting a straight six, leaving Hampshire's door ajar at 248 for six.

Through Ashley Giles and Graeme Welch, Warwickshire efficiently prised it open. The pair shared three wickets for 12 runs to reduce Hampshire to 260 for nine, with the last-wicket pair needing to bat for 43 balls to save the game. To heighten the drama, Derek Kenway, 18, was playing his first match in county cricket.

The ordeal lasted 28 minutes, with every fielder round the bat in the last few overs, but they survived with style and courage. It was much to Warwickshire's credit that every player made a point of staying hands with Kenway and his partner, Jim Bovill, at the end. Kenway faced 49 balls and Bovill 20.

By entertaining a small crowd to the close, and enabling Hayden, 25, to become only the nineteenth man to make a double-hundred and a hundred in a championship match, against bowlers, he it noted, trying to get him out, it showed that even the most outlandish last-day bonfire can have merit.

But for Knight and Robin Smith putting their heads together, the only thing that might have given the day point lay in Hayden, who was 235 not out, beating Brian Lara's world record individual score of 501 not out. It looked as though it might have come to that. But Knight reconsidered his first offer and the target shrank to 235 off 72. All Hampshire had to do was force-feed Warwickshire 252 runs in 27 overs, which they did in 71 minutes.

The set-up had two consolations: the first that it was quickly over, the second that because nobody was trying to take a wicket, there were none of those deafening cries of exhortation that make it tempting to take ear-plugs to a modern county cricket match. As Knight and Hemp swallowed their pride to help themselves to hundreds, however, the innings highlighted the inconsistency of the conventions governing a declaration game. If it is accepted that batsmen do the bowling to save the bowlers' figures, how can top-order batsmen justify raking in the proceeds?

Hayden, straight-driving, cutting and swinging hard and high to leg, made Hampshire favourites by scoring 66 in the hour after tea. But with 87 more needed in 13 overs, he got too far under an attempt to lift Giles over long-off and holed out. Philip Mead, in 1923, was the last Hampshire batsman to make a 200 and a 100 in the same match.

## Wells again runs deep in faltering pursuit of Lancashire

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (final day of four): Leicestershire (11pts) drew with Lancashire (10)

THE combination of Lancashire's spinners, a pitch that at last allowed turn and a target of 331 from a possible 71 overs proved all too much for Leicestershire's good intentions. Vince Wells completed a grand match for him by scoring a century to go with his first-innings 95, but even when he was caught off a skyer attempting a straight six, leaving Lancashire's door ajar at 248 for six.

Leicestershire were still on the fringes of the hunt when Neil Johnson, who made 150 in the first innings, joined Wells, who was in sight of his century. Now, though, Johnson found the task of taking on Keedy and Yates far more difficult than anything he had experienced in this match.

With Johnson bogged down, Wells had to make more of the running than could reasonably be expected. He hit across the line against Yates and Johnson, who followed to a beautiful catch by Lloyd at long-on, leaving Leicestershire to get 129 from 16 overs. When Whitaker fell an amazing one-handed effort on the boundary by the portly Aus-

TABLE							
	P	W	L	D	St	Pts	Pr
Glamorgan (10)	5	2	0	3	13	17	71
Gloucestershire (13)	5	1	0	4	11	16	65
Lancashire (11)	5	1	0	4	13	20	61
Leicestershire (11)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Middlesex (9)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Nottinghamshire (10)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Northamptonshire (10)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Warwickshire (10)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Worcestershire (10)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
Surrey (11)	4	2	1	1	16	50	59
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